The Healing Arts
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The Life and Art of Harold Adams

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Contributing Writers:
Jay Buckner, Leah Cushman, ’08, Debbie McIntyre, ’10, Jasmine Williams, ’08, Stephanie Radford, ’10, Julianne Sloan, Julie Sowell, Megan Torres, ’09

Front Cover: Harold Adams, ’48, with Annie; photo by Janton Barrineau, ’93
Back Cover: art by Dr. Harold Adams
Inside Front: photo by Michelle Towles, ’10
He who has health has hope; and he who has hope has everything.

– Thomas Carlyle

In a September 2007 Washington Post poll American voters saw health care as the number one domestic issue facing them. In decades past, politics, and religion often created friction in communities. Now even the health of the public health field itself has become a flash point.

Our theme, The Healing Arts, approaches well-being and medicine from a holistic point of view. We examine “dis-eases” affecting us in body, mind, and spirit. We look at health through several avenues—some conventional; others not so much. As I researched Berea’s connection to public health, I easily found more than 1,100 alumni connected to the health care industry. Some Berea alumni became doctors or nurses, some nutritional counselors or medical technologists, some alternative healers. Some entered public health; some entered private practice.

In addition to the stories of those working in the trenches at home and around the globe in clinics, schools, and hospitals (see articles on pp. 10, 13, and 33), you’ll find investigations into public health issues (pp. 14 and 18), such as what might be in your drinking water, or how your cat’s doctor looks after your health. When Berea hosted the International Fair this summer, we found time to interview alternative healers in Indian and Tibetan medicines (pp. 30 and 32).

During Summer Reunion, the College had the great privilege of exhibiting its new collection of art by physician and painter, Dr. Harold Adams, ’48, in both the upper and lower Traylor galleries (p. 24). Ann Butwell, ’87, likewise exhibited her art on the College Square this summer. Both of these artists suffered a health crisis and were inspired to create – and in some ways were healed by – artistic expressions of those experiences.

And in case you’ve wondered whether college students’ health habits have changed since you were here, we decided to address that issue in an article entitled “The Student Body” (p. 22). Enjoy this varied palette of offerings.

To your health!

Normandi Ellis
Berea College Logo Announced

After years of planning and careful thought, Berea College announced the standardization of its logo design to complement the historic seal. More than 100 members of the Berea College community viewed sample logos outside the President’s Office and offered their opinions this spring. Some expressed concern that the standardization meant the College was abandoning the seal that has long represented the College’s mandate.

This is not the case, President Larry Shinn assured the community. “The Berea College seal is not going anywhere!” Rather the new logo will be used for commercial purposes only with a more general audience. The seal will remain in use as it has for over a century – marking diplomas and official College documents and manuscripts.

Berea College Earns Greenhouse Project Grant

Berea College received a $10,000 Greenhouse Project Grant from the College Board for the College 101 Program. The College 101 Program, slated to begin next year, will offer low-income eighth graders and their parents or guardians basic information on how to plan for college. It will be directed by Bryan Erslan, in partnership with the College’s GEAR UP program, and directed by Dreama Gentry, ’89.

The topics will focus on college financial aid and the application/admission process, study skills, and pre-college curriculum. The project will also provide support for P-12 teachers and administrators to help them raise student expectations and aspirations and assist families during the college-planning process.

The project targets 15 Kentucky counties designated by the Appalachian Regional Commission as either distressed or transitional. Activities will include both on-site components as well as events on the Berea College campus.

Providing College Education with a (K)CAN-Do Attitude

Dreama Gentry, ’89, director of GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness for Undergraduate Programs), and Bryan Erslan, director of student financial aid, were named to the founding board of directors of the Kentucky College Access Network (KCAN).

According to an April KCAN report, only 21 percent of Kentuckians over the age of 25 hold bachelor’s degrees; Kentucky currently ranks 48th in degree attainment in the U.S. The KCAN network will “speak with one loud voice raising awareness of the need and value of postsecondary education,” says Gentry. They will do this by coordinating current programs and supporting creation of new programs that encourage college enrollment for all citizens, especially those who are underrepresented on campuses.

Erslan got involved with KCAN as president of the Kentucky Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. Gentry is excited about the new opportunities. “It is important that the staff of the Berea College GEAR UP program network with others who are making college accessible.” GEAR UP also participates in the National College Access Network (NCAN), which keeps Gentry informed of efforts on the national level.
CELETS Grant Aids Research in Energy and Empowerment in Appalachia

The Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service (CELETS) received a Learn and Serve America grant to study energy needs and assets in Madison County. Of nearly 100 proposals, Berea’s project was one of 10 selected for its innovation and potential contributions to the field of community-based research that engages faculty, students, and community members in research projects that affect social change.

The three-year research project unites community organizations with specific expert academicians in a collaborative approach to research and improve the financial security of low-income families, benefit the environment by reducing demand for coal-based electricity, and engage community members in changing the policies and behaviors that affect energy use.

This initiative, spearheaded by Princeton University and the Bonner Foundation, is coordinated by Princeton’s community-based learning initiative and will generate a range of best-practice tools and resources, including websites, manuals, and data valuable to students, faculty, and the community.

Megan Naseman Receives AASHE Leadership in Sustainability Award

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) presented a Student Sustainability Leadership Award to Megan Naseman, ‘07. The cash prize honors an undergraduate student from an AASHE member institution who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in promoting campus sustainability.

Naseman was lauded for her commitment, initiative, and high professionalism as a student representative of Berea College sustainability efforts and as a spokesperson for the Ecovillage community where she lived. “We had a very competitive pool of applicants this year, so winning one of these awards is a major achievement,” said Tom Kimmerer, the executive director of AASHE.

Award winners were selected by pools of campus sustainability experts assembled by AASHE. The awards were presented at the seventh biennial Greening of the Campus conference entitled, Partnering for Sustainability: Enabling a Diverse Future Transition in September.

AASHE now counts 150 U.S. and Canadian colleges and universities in the association. It defines sustainability in an inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations.
Berea Approves Computer Science Major

The Berea Board of Trustees and Academic Council approved an official computer science curriculum that will become a major in the mathematics and computer science department beginning in the fall of 2008.

In recent years the Computer Science department, spearheaded by associate professor Jan Pearce, has accumulated nearly a million dollars in grants from the National Science Foundation. These funds have facilitated purchase of the hardware required for computer science and robotics projects at the College. Most of the projects focus on humanitarian robotics, a rapidly growing field that can provide independence and mobility to those who would not otherwise be able to access these resources.

The overarching goal of this field of study, according to Pearce, is “bettering lives,” a notion that reduces danger and increases security for people.

Earl Hamner Returns to Berea

Earl Hamner, writer and producer of the 1970s television hit “The Waltons,” returned to campus for a reading co-sponsored by the Berea College Appalachian Center and the Department of English, Theatre and Speech Communication. Hamner is joined by George Brosi, editor of Appalachian Heritage, and artist Elizabeth Ellison.

Baptist Peace Fellowship Gathers on Campus

The annual summer conference of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America was held on the Berea College campus in July. Several hundred attendees from all ages across the Western Hemisphere came to explore the theme “As the Powers Fall.”

Berea professor Dr. Michelle Tooley, a conference presenter, says many sessions dealt with the question of “How do we dream up new structures and systems that work for everybody and not get bowed down by injustice in the world and war and violence, but be a positive force for peace?”

In addition to Tooley, other presenters included Wendell Berry, a Kentucky poet, essayist, and cultural and social critic.

Klimas Signs with Pros

This summer Tomas Klimas, ’07, signed with CSM Oradea, a professional basketball team in Romania. Klimas was an NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) Honorable Mention All-American and a two-time All-KIAC (Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) selection, and the first international player to start for Berea College. During his career, Klimas, a native of Lithuania, scored 1,082 points, grabbed 921 rebounds (ranks third all-time at Berea), had 117 assists, and 77 steals while averaging a double-double in points and rebounds the last two seasons. He graduated in May with a business administration degree.
Building Berea – Extending the Legacy

Admissions Makes Two Houses Its New Home

The Berea College Office of Admissions has found a new home, thanks to the generosity of benefactor and trustee Heather Sturt Haaga and her husband, Paul Haaga.

Haaga House and Sturt Cottage, formerly known as the Walker House and the Bond House, were renovated to create a more welcoming presence and comfortable accommodations on campus for prospective students and their families who may have traveled many miles to interview and tour the campus.

These two Chestnut Street properties are rich with a history that starts in 1870 with Rev. John G. Fee deeding the property to Rev. E. Henry Fairchild, the first president of Berea College. Like Fee, President Fairchild was a staunch supporter of integrated education at a time when not everyone in the South agreed. Thus, if threats arose, a secret passage was built in a closet of the Haaga House that allowed occupants to travel through the basement and out the back to safety. Rumor has it that vandals shot through the east window, leaving a bullet hole in the woodwork of the double doors between the living room and parlor.

Haaga House was also home to President William Goodell Frost and family until the time a frame homestead was built on campus as the President’s House. After that time, the families of Pasco, Gay, and Walker owned the home next to Knapp Hall until it was sold to the College. The Bond House has been owned by the College since at least 1930 when it was used as a gathering place for faculty members.

Having two adjacent properties on the edge of campus created the ideal scenario for Admissions, which had outgrown its home on one corner of the Edwards Building. Joe Bagnoli, Associate Provost for Enrollment, felt the new accommodations would improve the campus visit experience for both prospective students and the Admissions staff. In addition to ease of parking, Haaga House provides an ample, comfortable lobby and waiting area, interview rooms, counselors’ offices, common meeting space, and a 30-seat presentation room with a SMART Board™ for viewing the College’s introductory materials. In addition, the south walls of the presentation room afford a breathtaking view of the mountains beyond Brushy Fork, which can be viewed after a presentation when visitors are invited to move beyond the Admissions Office to tour the rest of campus. After touring campus, families may return to restful accommodations in Sturt Cottage that include Berea student craft products, a sitting room, living room, dining room, and kitchen.

The two houses have been named to honor the Haaga and Sturt families who feel a kinship with Berea College and its mission of “growing leaders,” as Heather Haaga said. Sturt Cottage was named for her parents, who believed that education was “the most important achievement of one’s life,” she continued. “Berea’s belief in young people and education mirrors that of my parents, and so it seemed appropriate that they be honored in this way.”

Haaga House honors the philanthropy of the entire Haaga family. “Paul and I believe that it is important in life to make a difference, to leave the world a better place,” Heather Haaga said. “We also believe ‘to whom much is given much is required,’ and we have been very blessed. The decision then becomes where can you make the biggest difference, where can you leave a legacy of change?”

Paul and Heather Haaga’s gift will benefit Berea College for years to come.
Burnside Publishes History Book

Berea sociology professor, Jacqueline Grisby Burnside, ’74, has recently published a pictorial history of African Americans in Berea and Madison County. She is director of the Historic Black Berea Project.

In 126 pages, she takes a look at the history of the interracial school, original church, and larger community. Burnside includes 200 historic photographs of the College as well as posed and candid snapshots from the county’s black communities, schools, and churches with detailed captions.

Tim Glotzbach Joins Berea

This summer Tim Glotzbach joined Berea College as Student Crafts program director. Tim is the former academic dean of the Heritage and Humanities Division of Hazard Community Technical College and the founder of the Kentucky School of Craft in Hindman, Kentucky. A professional jeweler and metalsmith, he received his MFA from University of Southern Illinois at Carbondale. As an educator for more than 20 years, he has taught at Eastern Kentucky University and SUNY-Oswego in New York. Glotzbach presents at workshops and fairs throughout the commonwealth. In 2003 he received the eighth annual Rude Osolnik Award, which recognizes artists for their contributions to the craft community, preservation of craft traditions, and exemplary workmanship.

Bill Turner Inducted into Civil Rights Hall of Fame

In September Dr. William Turner was inducted into the Civil Rights Hall of Fame by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights; and, in separate news, Turner also was appointed to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights by Governor Ernie Fletcher.

The induction ceremony honored Turner for his significant contributions to civil and human rights, notably his focus on the African American experience in Appalachia. Turner joins four other Bereans in the Hall of Fame: John G. Fee, founder of Berea College; Carter G. Woodson, (1903), the father of black history month; the late Galen Martin, ’51, who established the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights; and Berea trustee David Welch, ’55, former chairman of that commission.

Previously dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at UK and interim president of Kentucky State University, Turner is Berea’s National Endowment for the Humanities Chair in Appalachian Studies.

EPG Announces New Directors

The Appalachian Center appointed Peter Hackbert and Daniel Huck as co-directors of the Entrepreneurship for the Public Good (EPG) program, where select students learn to integrate leadership, entrepreneurship, and community development.

Peter Hackbert holds the William and Kay Moore Entrepreneurship and Management Chair. For the last two years he was visiting scholar at the Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the University of Illinois. Prior to that he held an endowed chair in entrepreneurship at Sierra Nevada College, where he founded and directed the Sharon M. Croom Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership. Hackbert earned a master’s degree in communications and a doctorate in general administration.

Daniel Huck holds the William R. Gruver Chair in Leadership Studies. As assistant professor of leadership at the McDonough Center for Leadership and Business at Marietta College in Ohio, Huck developed curriculum for local and international courses and created local and global service-learning opportunities. Early in his career he was a court mediator, correctional facility administrator, legal counsel to the governor of West Virginia, and deputy attorney general. He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and international relations, a juris doctorate, and a doctorate in educational leadership.

Curtis Sandberg

Curtis Sandberg joins Berea College as Director of Academic Services. He is formerly the University of Wyoming’s associate director for student educational opportunity, which includes Upward Bound, a Math Science Initiative Project, Educational Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers, and the statewide GEAR-UP project. He has master’s degrees in experimental psychology and public administration.
Since 1898 Berea College has graduated nurses uniquely equipped to serve the health care needs of the underprivileged. According to nursing professor Pam Farley, their success often stems from empathy; their clients usually come from a similar background. In addition, the College curriculum “focuses on the well-being of the person as a whole, rather than focusing on the disease.”

Many avenues lie open for graduates with nursing degrees, including work in hospitals, residential care facilities, doctor’s offices, public health clinics, schools, and private homes. With an aging population and rising demand for health care professionals, recent graduates can usually find their special niche and stay there for a long, rewarding career.

By Debbie McIntyre, ’10

Now enjoying retirement with sightseeing trips and visits with her three children and five grandchildren, Annette Moore Shelton, ’57, looks back on her education and subsequent 40-year career. She says with fondness, “It’s a really great profession.”

When Annette arrived at Berea from Tuckasegee, North Carolina, she already knew she wanted to be a nurse. Back then, she could accomplish this in three years, but even then – as now – it was a hard major.

“You worked your shift in the hospital, even night duty, and tried to stay awake in classes,” she recalls. Berea nursing candidates were trained at the Berea College hospital and also in Cincinnati. Nursing students had to wear uniforms with tightly buttoned cuffs, a bibbed white apron, and a torturous stiff white collar, says Annette. Black stockings were worn during freshman probation, and a white nursing cap completed the outfit after the capping ceremonies at the end of the first year.

Following graduation Annette moved back to western North Carolina and took a position as floor supervisor on a hospital ward. After taking some time off to care for her children, she re-entered the work force in 1967 at the Western Carolina University (WCU) Clinic, where she stayed for 10 years. While her children were active in after-school activities, she worked as a nurse part-time. During this period, while working as a hospital floor nurse at WCU, she discovered the need for a refresher course. She enrolled in courses at the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) in Asheville. Two of her professors were Berea College graduates – Carol Parker, ’66, and Nina Jean Hill, ’70, who later became the director of nursing at MAHEC.

Her final lengthy stint was at the Cherokee Indian Hospital where the government sponsored a program of rotating specialty walk-in clinics for Native people. Weekly clinics were held for diabetics. Diabetes affects approximately a fourth of Native Americans living in the southern United States. “People lose their limbs and their health problems become really extreme. It’s so sad, because if they’ve neglected their health, it really takes its toll.”

Annette lives in Cullowhee, North Carolina, just 23 miles from the clinic. “I
met one of my (former) patients the other day, and she remembered me. That makes me feel good,” she says. “They were good years there.”

In the 30 years she has spent with the Madison County Health Department in Kentucky, Carla King Baumann, ‘76, has worked her way up to being the director of nursing. As department head, she is involved in strategic planning, staff development, policy development, and more. Other options lay open to the Berea graduate, but she feels she made the right choice.

“I am particularly interested in the prevention of disease and injury – caring for and being involved in people’s health before they become sick or disabled. In public health, the community is our client,” says Carla. “We work in schools, homes, off-site clinics, factories, and mobile vans.” The public health department programs serve the entire community through clinics, health education, immunizations, environmental regulations, restaurant inspections, and special programs, such as the recent initiative to regulate clean air in restaurants and other public establishments.

After receiving the Surgeon General’s report in June 2006 about the severe health risks in secondary smoke exposure, Carla says, the health department decided to take action. Her staff helped to identify strategies to mobilize the community and planned public forums, press conferences, and related media campaigns. The efforts paid off. The regulation banning indoor smoking in all Madison County public places went into effect June 12, 2007.

Educating the public is a major element in the duties of a public health employee, according to Carla. It runs the gamut from individual nutrition counseling for new parents to widespread community preparedness for a pandemic flu outbreak. While there have been many breakthroughs in preventative health during her career, such as new vaccines and dental sealants, the Berea resident says the biggest ongoing reasons for insufficient health are poor nutrition, sedentary lifestyle, smoking, and obesity. Preventable diseases are “contingent on our changing our behaviors and addictions.”

In 2004, Carla was named a Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Executive Fellow, a national leadership honor for nurses in senior executive roles who aspire to lead and shape the U.S. health care system of the future. The national program is supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with direction and technical assistance provided by the Center for the Health Professions. Carla credits Berea
College for exposing her to “opportunities that gave me a larger world view, and an emphasis on the value of work and social responsibility.”

She advises new nurses to “seek work that allows you to develop those skills and competencies that express your core values. Be on a journey of continual learning and self-improvement.”

With just five years of her nursing career behind her, Amy Norfleet-Edwards, ’02, has worked toward her master’s degree in rural public health/nursing education and expects to earn that degree in December 2007. Amy began her nursing career at the Medical Center of Bowling Green, Kentucky, where she worked with newborns in the nursery and with mothers in the labor and delivery rooms.

In 2004, as an employee of the Lake Cumberland District Health Department, Amy joined Wayne County High School as a school nurse. During the school year, she sees approximately 850 high school students and 75 staff members. In addition to dispensing medicine, she responds to sudden illnesses and injuries, averaging 60 patients a day. On top of that, Amy provides health screenings, immunizations, health education, and more.

“There is never a dull moment when you are a school nurse. As with most nursing positions, you must always expect the unexpected.”

The school where Amy works is located in a primarily rural area of the state, and most of her students receive free or reduced-price meals. Thirty-five percent of the student population is classified as overweight or obese. Last year, to combat future problems, she started an afterschool program, Project Healthy Heart. “This was my personal initiative to target the overweight adolescent population. I have seen personal changes being made in their lifestyle behaviors, which has been very rewarding.”

Amy makes sure her school community is well informed of any new disease outbreaks and that they are made aware of preventative weapons. Annually she makes presentations to school athletes about the prevention of flu and CA-MRSA (community-acquired methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), a type of staph infection. She updates the students and staff on the new flu mist, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) and Gardasil vaccines. Gardasil is the new HPV (human papillomavirus vaccine) that prevents some types of sexually-transmitted HPvdisease that have been linked to cervical cancer. “I feel (it) will be very promising. I hope to have a strong response to this vaccine for the teen girls I serve.”

In addition to working as a full-time school nurse, Amy also works part-time in the newborn nursery and newborn intensive care unit for the Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital. During the spring and fall semesters, she teaches as a nursing clinical instructor for Somerset Community College, and for five months out of the year she is a nurse abstractor for Outcomes Inc., a health care management provider.

This Monticello, Kentucky mother of an infant son, wife, and career nurse stays busy!

Amy is happy with the career path she chose. “I have never found myself to dislike any part of nursing. The possibilities with nursing are unlimited,” she says. “It is definitely a career choice that will never let you down. The rewards are a true blessing.”
Three years ago when Faithe Warren-Agee, ’81, accepted a nursing position with the University of Kentucky Stroke Care Unit, she ended up changing more than her job. She changed her life.

Before joining the new state-of-the-art stroke unit, Faithe worked in the Markey Cancer Center as an oncology nurse – a job that she says taught her a great deal about living and dying. “Life is a changing thing,” she says philosophically, “and the way you live your life is of huge importance.” Faithe said she realized that she couldn’t really teach her patients much about healthy lifestyle choices, if she wasn’t making good choices herself.

When Faithe started working in the stroke unit, she weighed 230 lbs. Taking care of stroke patients who were her own age and wearing diapers made Faithe realize this was not a future she envisioned for herself. “I can accept death, but not debilitation,” she says. As a result, she began to exercise, eat nutritious food, and lost 90 pounds. “Now, I am as healthy as a horse,” she says.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in Kentucky and is a medical emergency equivalent to a heart attack. UK’s multidisciplinary stroke team uses the latest technology and drugs to treat strokes before they can damage the brain. When the unit opened in 2004, it was the first comprehensive primary stroke center in central and eastern Kentucky to be certified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Faithe works with a team of nurses, physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and counselors, making sure that everyone involved in each patient’s care stays informed and the patient receives all the recommended treatments. “I also plan their care for the length of their stay, working toward discharge or rehabilitation,” she says. “I do a million things on a particular day.”

In addition to providing the finest medical care, astute observation and deep compassion are key ingredients for those working in health care. In both the oncology and stroke units, Faithe says, she has seen people fighting for their lives, “trying to make the best of what they’ve been handed in the most dignified way possible…. It has made me value life and appreciate how short it really is.”

With a clipboard under her arm and a stethoscope around her neck, Faithe goes up and down the hallway, stopping at bedsides to talk with patients. She looks at the pupils of their eyes, checks monitors and vital signs, and listens to their hearts, lungs, and stomachs. She measures the oxygen patients are taking in, their blood pressure, their pulse, asking questions to determine changes in speech or thinking. Three days a week (sometimes four) she works a 12-hour shift, calling out as she enters a patient’s room, “Good morning!”

Some patients answer; some do not. Faithe recognizes that this reticence is part of the territory. With stroke, patients and their families feel a great sense of loss. “Often people cannot speak or their speech is difficult to understand. Often they are confused and sometimes physically combative. Stroke often changes people’s personalities.” Terrified and frustrated family members may lash out in anger. One challenging aspect of her job is convincing those she tries to help “that I am their ally.”

The good news is that the majority of patients under her care get better and regain their health. “I love my job,” she says. “I know that I’m making a difference in my patients’ lives at a time that is stressful and difficult. The job is hard, but not as hard as what they are going through.”

The desire to make a difference in the lives of people around her was a high priority for Faithe upon graduation. She found the classes at Berea simultaneously difficult and life-enhancing. In particular, she recalls the ‘Issues and Values’ course that prompted her to examine her values and beliefs. “Berea prepared me for a life of service,” she says. Faithe has some advice for future graduates. “As a new grad, know that you’ve had a wonderful education and that you are educationally prepared. Take advantage of the opportunities that Berea gives you, because you might not find them anywhere else. There is no place like Berea.”
Some people say you can’t fight City Hall. But they haven’t met Virginia “Gin” Brown, Cx’48.

In 2001, Gin took on her home city of Fort Collins, Colorado, over the age-old practice of adding fluoride to drinking water. A growing number of scientists have begun to question the practice and she seized on their research. Eventually, she and other members of the Fort Collins Clean Water Advocates pushed the issue until the city council put it on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Gin, who has had a long career in public health nursing, believes that fluoride is harmful to people and particularly harmful to children, whose bodies and brains are still in the formative stages. Convincing people of this is difficult, however, especially when the issue is something like fluoridation of municipal water supplies, a practice most Americans view as a safe way to prevent cavities. For 60 years, parents have been told that fluoride is necessary to prevent tooth decay in children.

Children, says Gin, already get fluoride in their water, in toothpaste, food, and soft drinks. Poor children tend to get the most fluoride because they may get fluoride varnish treatments for their teeth and fluoride mouth rinses through school and government programs for low-income families. Yet today, tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease and is becoming increasingly concentrated in disadvantaged populations.

Gin has found two schools that show increased incidence of tooth decay in their students. Irish Elementary School in Fort Collins recently screened the student body of 260 students and found that 116 had extreme dental needs – 39 needed immediate attention. A recent Carolina Public Health
Journal noted that 4 out of 10 North Carolina children entering kindergarten have had tooth decay. Most of these children come from poor or disadvantaged families. Despite classic signs and symptoms of early fluoride poisoning, the cause of the disease is being diagnosed as lack of dental care.

The problem, Gin says, is that fluoride programs are designed to treat teeth only, when they should be designed with the health of the whole child in mind.

In the hopes of influencing public awareness, Gin has written to John Edwards, the former U.S. senator from North Carolina who has made the plight of poor Americans a central theme of his presidential campaign. “The number one problem in our country is the high level of sickness among our young,” she wrote Edwards. “I believe this is largely caused by fluoride overdoses.”

Sometimes her pleas reach receptive ears, sometimes not. One public health official in the South replied, “I am in agreement with the position of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that classifies water fluoridation as one of the ten greatest achievements in public health during the last century…. I suspect that on this issue we will just have to disagree.”

Gin states that the possibility of using fluoride as a means of cavity prevention was first considered by dental scientists in the 1930s when they observed that people living where the water contained significant amounts of natural fluoride had very low rates of dental decay. In 1945, Newburg, North Carolina, became the first city to add fluoride to a municipal water supply. In 2005, when the CDC celebrated the 60th anniversary of fluoridation, a majority of Americans – some 170 million of us – were drinking fluoridated water.

By that time, Gin had spent four years trying to convince Fort Collins to get rid of fluoridation. She had also won a powerful ally, the formerly pro-fluoride chairman of the Fort Collins Water Board, Thomas G. Sanders.

“I was for fluoride for 30 years,” says Sanders, a professor of civil engineering at Colorado State University and program coordinator for their environmental engineering program. “I was as for it as anyone on Earth.”

Gin gave Sanders numerous studies questioning the safety of fluoridation, and he appointed a committee to look into the matter. Ultimately, Sanders became convinced that she was right, and that it was a mistake to add fluoride to Fort Collins’ pristine mountain water supply.

“I read it all, and it completely changed my opinion,” says Sanders. “Virginia Brown was the driving force in bringing this issue to the public. She was the one who started the whole ball rolling.”

From the beginning, Gin and other fluoride opponents pushed that ball uphill. In America, fluoridation has been widely accepted by the public, health officials, and dentists. The American Dental Association says it “endorses the fluoridation of community water supplies and the use of fluoride-containing products as safe and effective.” The CDC says, “Daily and frequent exposure to small amounts of fluoride will best reduce the risk of tooth decay for all age groups.”

But fluoridation is not quite the settled issue it once seemed. Most of the world’s industrialized countries have rejected it, and in the U.S., fissures have begun to pop up here and there in the scientific and dental communities as new research has raised questions about fluoride’s safety.

Still Advocating for Public Health
Gin became an agent for environmental change after a career in public service, first as a military nurse, then as an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, where she attained the rank of captain. In 1984, three years after her retirement, she was struck with a mystery illness while hiking in Arizona. Her mouth began to burn as if she had eaten a really hot chili pepper, but the sensation didn’t stop. “After that, it felt like it was burning 24 hours a day,” she says.

Nobody could tell her what was wrong until she found Dr. Sam Ziff’s book, *The Toxic Time Bomb*, which detailed problems with silver fillings. Gin called Dr. Ziff for advice, and he guided her through the maze of treatment for mercury poisoning, as well as introducing her to the newly formed patient support group DAMS (dental amalgams mercury syndrome). Gin states that it took over a decade to get her burning mouth syndrome under control.

Spurred by her own illness, she began to question modern health practices. She wanted to know why fillings contain mercury. And she focused on the use of fluoride as a means of protection against tooth decay. “I believe fluoride is crippling and killing our children, especially poor children.”

Opponents of fluoridation have found a major ally in government scientists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who have challenged the government’s pro-fluoride stance. These scientists have raised their objections to fluoridation in statements issued by Chapter 280 of the National Treasury Employees Union, which represents them.

The union was once a supporter of fluoridation, too. But over the years, it changed course. “Our opposition to drinking water fluoridation has grown,” Chapter 280 says on its web site, citing research documenting “increasingly out-of-control exposure to fluoride, a lack of benefit to dental health, and hazards to human health.”

These hazards include risks of gene mutations and cancer, the union says. To back its contention, the union cites dozens of studies, including one done by Chinese scientists which found I.Q. drops of 5-10 percentage points in children who got more fluoride than a control group.

Another warning came from a Harvard study which found an increased risk of bone cancer in boys who drank fluoridated water. And the Research Council of the prestigious National Academies of Science says the EPA’s standard for the maximum amount of fluoride allowed in drinking water was too high, and that fluoride in that concentration could actually damage teeth.

As the campaign against fluoride unfolded in Fort Collins, Gin seized on available research and took it to the citizenry at public meetings and through letters to the local newspaper. Gin, who holds a master’s degree in public health from The University of North Carolina, didn’t mince words.

For instance, in a 2002 letter, she wrote, “The liquid form of fluoride received by Fort Collins for addition to drinking water cannot be dumped into the sewer due to its toxicity. It consists of waste products captured in scrubber systems of fertilizer industries and contains other contaminants, such as mercury, arsenic, lead, cadmium, thallium, and aluminum. All these substances, including fluoride, are highly toxic to the brain.”

Gin was born in 1926 in Elliston, Virginia, one of seven children. Her family had little money, but her parents wanted their children to go to college. In high school, Gin served as class president, won valedictorian honors, and received the offer of a tuition-free education from Berea College. At Berea, she reveled in the fields of knowledge the College opened up for her, including history and art. “Berea opened my eyes to a lot of things,” she says.

She went on to earn a nursing degree from the Medical College of Virginia, then served six years in the Navy, two of them as a nurse treating casualties aboard a hospital ship during the Korean War. In 1962, she began a 19-year career in the U.S. Public Health Service, where she was assigned to the Indian Health Service. By the time she looked into fluoridation in Fort Collins, she’d had decades of experience in public health.

However, her effort in Fort Collins did not succeed. When fluoridation came up for a vote in 2005, the proposal was heavily opposed by dentists, and ultimately was defeated by a margin of two to one. Gin could have quit; instead, she pressed on. She says her own experience with burning mouth syndrome taught her that many maladies may have an environmental cause. She continues to turn out letters trying to catch the attention of officials who are in a position to change things. Gin wages this fight for America’s children, and, she says, she won’t stop fighting until this risk is addressed.
Do you want to shake up your work-out routine? Try dancing your way to fitness!

Susan Spalding, chair and director of the Berea College dance program, says that there is a vital connection between physical and mental health. Dancing offers a creative way to get in shape and stay in shape. Susan is a dancer at heart. “Dancing is fun. It keeps you interested in physical activity. Not only that, but people enjoy the social interaction. They don’t have to depend on purely motivating themselves”.

Dance benefits people on the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual levels. “Dancing, along with any physical exercise, improves your short- and long-term memory,” Susan says. Dance seems to have a greater effect than physical exercise alone, because it requires one to learn and remember sequences, she says. “It constantly challenges your brain.” Studies have shown that participating in group physical activities, such as dance, improves one’s self-esteem. One reason may be that dance engages participants in positive social interaction.

“I teach a class called ‘Dance in Healing and Therapy’ that specifically addresses the connection between the mind and the body and between mental capacity and physical motion. My colleague Stephanie Woodie teaches modern dance classes that also work on a holistic body/mind connection. Even in ballet, jazz, and aerobic classes our approach is to try to address the whole person.”

Berea’s dance program offers a variety of student dance groups, including hip-hop, folk dance, Middle Eastern dance, swing dance, and more. “Each group has its own personality. Each offers its own way to interact. Each group contributes to the dance culture of Berea,” says Susan. “Celebrating your own cultural heritage or many cultural heritages through dance is about self-affirmation. That’s really important.”
In the same direct way that a pediatric physician might look at the child who is her patient, veterinarian and associate professor of agriculture Dianne Hellwig looks at animals inside the pen on the College Farm. When she turns the same observant, caring gaze toward you, you realize that you have been seen. More importantly, perhaps, the animals under her care sense that they are valued. Although the future of a calf or hog might be to become someone’s dinner, that doesn’t mean that the animal has no feelings. While assisting with sheep-shearing one day, she says, she got down at eye level to check the number on an ear tag and found herself at eye level with the sheep. She said, “hello,” and the animal began to wiggle. Dianne tells this story on herself with a laugh. “The shearer called me on it. He said, ‘Now, you’ve done it. You’ve gone and convinced her that she is human.’”

An enthusiastic advocate of animal welfare, Dianne believes that animals are sentient beings. She wants to avoid creating stress in the animals she tends, but that caring attitude may confuse some agriculture students who take a more traditional view of life on the farm. She recalls that during a 4-H demonstration on how to neuter a small animal, which happened to be her own cat, she prepared the animal by anesthetizing it to alleviate its pain. A student asked, “Why don’t we give other animals pain medication — like when we castrate bulls?”

Dianne smiled and answered with a question. “Yes,” she said. “Why don’t we?”

Veterinarians, it turns out, take a lifelong oath similar to the physicians’ Hippocratic Oath. They pledge to use their scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge. “The veterinarian is as invested in global health issues as are medical doctors and nurses,” says Dianne. During short term 2008, she will explore the role animals play in society and human health in a course on global health issues that she and nursing faculty members Connie Richmond and Pam Farley will co-teach.

She knows global health issues from multiple perspectives. Before becoming a veterinarian, Dianne worked as a biological scientist for Merck, a major pharmaceutical company. She received a doctorate in animal science, worked as a post-doctoral researcher at Iowa State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, and directed a diagnostic laboratory for feedlot cattle in Amarillo, Texas. This was followed by a few years at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville where she carried a teaching, research, and livestock extension appointment.

Dianne is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), a
group that works closely with the Center for Disease Control, the U.S. Drug Administration (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure that the meat we eat and other animal products that we ingest come from healthy livestock. Most nutritional products have their origin in the animal kingdom. For example, an over-the-counter supplement, such as those used by people with digestive disorders, comes from a pig’s pancreas. Wouldn’t you want to know that that pig was healthy?

“We don’t think enough about what we put in our mouths,” she says, noting that not all ‘natural’ substances are safe. While the FDA assures consumers of the safety of pharmaceuticals, natural vitamin and mineral supplements (or nutraceuticals), are not drugs regulated by the FDA. The AVMA hopes to play a more regulatory role in what the public knows about these supplements. The association also supports animal and human health through programs that bring awareness to other issues as diverse as the recent pet food contaminations, biological warfare, and disaster preparedness.

The gaze in which Dianne holds her animals not only connects her with the creature, but provides her with the opportunity to closely inspect the animal’s health. She observes its breathing, whether its face seems swollen, or whether its eyes are clouded or tearing. As a veterinarian pledged to work for human health, her labor is grassroots and necessarily hands-on.

For example, much ado was created around foot-and-mouth disease in Great Britain. There, outbreaks of foot and mouth disease were initially overlooked and misunderstood. By the time the country established quarantines, the affected sheep had spread the disease throughout Great Britain. Millions of animals were euthanized and burned in large pyres. In part, the panic in Great Britain was caused by government workers who did not act swiftly enough to control the epidemic.

This occurred about the same time that ‘mad cow’ disease was brought to the forefront of public attention. People commonly confused foot-and-mouth disease, which does not affect humans, with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or so-called mad cow disease, which some investigators suggest might have been transferred to humans via ingestion of contaminated meat and byproducts. It is believed the disease initially spread from sheep to cattle by feeding cattle the contaminated slaughter byproducts as a protein source. Dianne notes that the USDA has outlawed the practice of feeding bovine bone meal supplements to cattle and other ruminants (sheep, goats, and deer). In addition, whenever veterinarians find cases that they suspect may be BSE, those animals are euthanized and examined for evidence of the disease.

The greatest biological threat to humans, she says, is not contracting BSE from eating a hamburger, but acquiring a zoonatic strain of influenza. “Flu is a master of change. It easily transforms, which is why people need a new flu vaccination every year.” In the 1970s, precautionary vaccinations were urged to curb a swine flu that never reached the general public. More recently, the press has given attention to avian flu. Those stricken with it often lived in close proximity to the infected chickens. Thus far, there has been no evidence of avian flu transmission from person to person. Although, she warns, given time and the genetic makeup of flu virus, it is certainly possible.

“If anything is going to jump from animals to humans quickly, it would be flu.”

A word to the wise – get that flu shot.
When a speeding car in San Salvador ran over Berea graduate Ann Butwell, '87, her cheerful heart and the healing power of art helped her recover from the devastating injuries.

After leaving Berea, the Spanish major received her master’s degree in Latin American Studies from Tulane University. In January 1992, she and newlywed husband John Wright Rios moved to San Salvador. The 26-year-old had just accepted a job with Augsburg College’s Center for Global Education (CGE) as the El Salvador coordinator. A peace treaty to end the 12-year civil war was pending, and the future looked rosy.

Then just four days after their arrival, a car careened around a curve while she and John were jogging and struck Ann. Knocked underneath the vehicle, two of its wheels ran over the petite woman’s midsection. Then her body slammed headfirst into a curb. John saw the whole incident. He rushed to her side and knelt to say a final “Ann, I love you” to his new bride – only to gasp in surprise when she answered, “Love you, too.”

“He really thought I was a goner,” says Ann.

The alum says doctors told her if she had been over 30, she could not have recovered from her injuries. Scrapes and bruises covered her body, her scalp was split, and ligaments in her right knee torn. Internally, she suffered a broken pelvis, severed hip muscles, and a partially crushed small intestine. Most life-threatening was a lacerated abdominal artery, causing her to lose half her blood. All of the muscles in her left leg suffered nerve damage.

Fortunately for Ann, the medical staff had many years of experience treating traumatic injuries similar to those sustained in battle, so they knew what she needed. An emergency operation stopped the bleeding, removed the damaged intestine, and reattached what remained. A week later, an Air Ambulance flew Ann in a body cast to George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C., to be cared for by physicians in her health insurance group.

There, Ann underwent several more surgeries and intense therapy over the next seven weeks. Many friends and family members came to lend their support. During that time she discovered her inner strengths of perseverance and humor during adversity and experienced relief from her emotional pain through art. Just three weeks after her accident when she was still unable to fully sit up and too nauseated to read, someone handed Ann some paper and a marker and her creative juices began to flow.

Sad because her former boss hadn’t been to see her yet, she created a one-page invitation that began: “Come visit Ann - Now available to receive visitors in two uncomfortable positions!” She included three sketches of herself in her hospital bed with bright eyes, rosy cheeks, and a big smile, urging him to visit. The invitation was faxed to him, and he hurried to see her. “I mean, who could resist an invitation like that?” Ann says.

She progressed from those initial sketches to drawing her memories of the accident. Eventually she depicted the incident six times in four different media. “I believe that wanting to be free from my past is the main reason I began to represent the experiences that I had imprisoned in my mind and body. Naturally extroverted, I wanted all that stuff out where I could see it and process it and be free from it. It was the most natural way to process it,” she says.

A cheerful heart is good medicine.
— Proverbs 17:22

By Debbie McIntyre, ’10

Art professor Neil di Teresa chats with Ann at her art show held at WaysMeet Healing Arts Center.
thing for me to gravitate toward art.”

While Ann had always had a keen interest in art, she hadn’t done a lot of studying in the field. “There’s something about art that’s kind of intimidating because you really put yourself out there. The myth is that only super talented people can be artists. The truth is that the more you do something, the better you get at it.”

After her release from the hospital in early March, Ann continued receiving medical care and therapy at home. Through her determination and positive attitude, she graduated from a wheelchair to crutches by mid-March of 1992. By August she was able to return to El Salvador, where her job had been held for her. In 1994 the couple moved to Washington, D.C. where Ann co-coordinated the Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean for the next eight years.

In 2002, Ann returned to Berea College. As a collegium member, she worked with Student Life. While here, Ann enrolled in several classes with art professor Neil DiTeresa. Though she hadn’t depicted the accident in her art since 1992, she found the desire to do so returning. She painted images of the purple clouds she envisioned while undergoing healing therapy; images representing what she calls her “bad body days” – days when her entire left side would cramp in pain; multiple images of a surgical light; and images of out-of-body experiences just after the impact and during one of her major surgeries.

During that surgery, she found herself conscious near the end of the procedure and could feel the pain of it, but was unable to talk, open her eyes, or move to indicate her distress. For years afterwards she didn’t consciously remember the incident, but a particular shade of red disturbed her. Just recently Ann realized that it is the same color she sees when her eyes are closed under an extremely bright light – hence the surgical light that she felt compelled to recapture in her art. “The more I represented that light, the less sensitized I was to it.”

Currently, Ann and John live in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she returned to work for CGE as the International Travel Seminar Coordinator. She continues to make art, exploring her accident and healing process in various media. “It’s one of those moments that define your life. I think it’s a sign of my healing that I’m able to approach it now. Now I feel like I’m me again, so that’s hopeful.” The ‘me’ Ann exudes is very friendly, upbeat, and has a quirky sense of humor that allows her to joke about herself as the “human speed bump” and someone who doesn’t “have enough guts” to succeed. She is proving herself wrong on that one.

Recently, she says, she “exposed her weirdness to the world” by exhibiting 40 pieces of artwork plus a binder with her hospital sketches at a show, “The Art of Healing,” that took place in May at WaysMeet Healing Arts Center during the first annual Berea International Festival. The art was very well received and many people lingered over the paintings and talked with Ann. “There are a million different interpretations for my paintings. They touch people in their own ways. I try to make art that is universal, art that everyone can appreciate whether they have been through trauma or not.”
The Student Body

By Julie Sowell

For more than two decades, associate provost and child and family studies professor Janice Blythe has helped students to eat smarter and to understand where diet and nutrition fit into their general health. In addition to having taught basic nutrition courses since 1986, she is a registered dietitian and has offered nutrition counseling to faculty, staff, and students through the College Health Service. Although she is no longer providing counseling or teaching nutrition this year, Blythe will offer two courses: one on community nutrition and another about food, culture, and society.

“If students got grades for how well they ate, a lot of them would do poorly,” says Blythe. Not surprisingly, the same thing goes for getting enough sleep and exercise, she says. “I must say that in many instances I have concerns,” says Blythe. “Though there are many students concerned about their health, in general we’re not where we need to be.”

On the positive side, however, Blythe notes that at Berea “we have a good emphasis on wellness and fitness and health, so that increases students’ awareness.” The Get Moving program, sponsored by the physical education department for the last three years, is one example of how to get more people involved in physical activity, she says. “You also see it in the catered foods ordered for most campus events now, where a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, and juices are choices, along with the traditional cookies and punch.”

David McHargue, ‘90, has managed Berea’s Dining Services since 2005 and been an institutional food service professional for more than 15 years. It’s his job to keep Berea’s students well-fed and happy, and he works hard to do both, he says.

A lot has changed since the days when McHargue was a student. Then, the typical College dinner menu consisted of one or the other entrée, a “starch” (a.k.a. potatoes, rice, or noodles), two vegetables, and “desserts, such as little bowls of Jello,” and a soup and salad bar, says McHargue. “Now, it’s all you can eat. You can have whatever you want, and there are many different formats. Along with this traditional cafeteria-style line, there’s now a pasta line, a grill line with a minimum of three items on it, and a pizza bar with a minimum of three different kinds of pizza. There’s an “exhibition station” where students can pick the ingredients for an entrée that is cooked right in front of them. We have whole fruits in abundance, eight ice creams you can dip from, at least 10 different cereals on any given day. So it’s gone to more of a scramble system.” Between meals, students may also eat at the Café, order sandwiches to go, or even grab late night snacks – all on their meal plan.

What influences student eating habits the most? Both Blythe and McHargue agree that fast food and the demands and pace of college life have the most impact on student food choices as well as how and when students eat. “We’re feeding a generation that has grown up on fast food,” says
McHargue, “so, of course, the fast food is really popular.”

But both McHargue and Blythe agree that many students are health conscious and care about what they are eating. “We had to put up a nutrition station to help students understand what’s in their food – how much fat or carbs in each entrée, so that way they can plan what they want to eat,” says McHargue. “We do that for every meal. Almost everybody wants to know what’s healthful and what’s not.”

McHargue works closely with a campus Food Committee and also uses a comment card system to learn what foods students care about, like, or dislike.

“At the previous campus where I worked, I would get maybe 4-5 comment cards a month. At Berea, I usually get 4-5 cards a meal,” says McHargue. He makes every effort to add foods or change what students don’t like, if it is possible and within the budget. This means trying to accommodate ethnic food preferences or sometimes change the way foods are prepared.

Some Bereans have voiced a strong demand for natural, organic, and locally grown foods, says McHargue. This past spring, Cait McClanahan was hired as Dining Services sustainability coordinator. Her job is to help Berea expand the local food offerings by working to connect the college community with local food producers, to create learning opportunities around local food issues, and to build on other strong local food and sustainability initiatives already underway.

Along with fast food, international fare, and organic peanut butter, it’s good to know that students still appreciate some of the comfort foods that they learned to love at the family dinner table. “Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, and gravy,” is the most consistently popular offering, says McHargue. And a whopping 92 percent of students chose steak the last time it was on the menu.

(Thanks Nick Beckner, '10, Stephanie Radford, '10)
The Life and Art of Harold Adams

By Timothy W. Jordan, ’76
Some say art imitates life.
For Dr. Harold Adams, ’48, art saved his life.

After nearly four decades of delivering babies and working as a physician in St. Paul, Minnesota, Harold contracted a life-threatening form of hepatitis in the early 1980s. Doctors at Mayo Clinic, as well as those with whom he had practiced, offered little hope. As a physician, he knew what such a diagnosis meant. Retiring from his long career as an obstetrician, gynecologist, and surgeon, he made out his will and put his affairs in order.

Immediately thereafter he registered as an art student at Macalester College in St. Paul. “I practiced medicine from the time I was thirty, but I have practiced art since I was six,” Harold says. The boy who used scraps of cardboard and leftover paint on the family’s farm in Laurel County, Kentucky, to satisfy his creative urges never had pursued any formal training.

Annie Labovitz, a fellow art student, recounts their first meeting. “I was sitting at the easel, waiting for the class to start, and Harold walked in, [wearing] a suit and said, ‘Hello, I’m Dr. Adams.’ and sat down.” She mistook him for the professor. “He had just stopped working,” she recalled, “and believed that he had a very short time to live. He threw himself thoroughly into the work. He was living, eating, and breathing the painting and drawing.”

“He raised the bar in those classes for every student, because he worked so extraordinarily hard and was unafraid to try anything,” says Joan Cox, another older student who became a close friend. His art became as unique as he was. Harold explains, “One of my favorite instructors, Professor (Victor) Caglioti, said, ‘Adams, concentrate on the undone, but possible.’ That is exactly what I do. If it has been done before, I’m really not that interested.”

Harold credits Dr. John Bangson, his Berea biology professor, for inspiring him to study medicine. Other critical influences on his life were chemistry professor Julian Capps and Dr. John Baker of the Berea Hospital laboratories. “Without Berea,” Harold muses, “I don’t know what I would have done.”

What he did was attend medical school in Brooklyn, New York. After receiving his medical degree, he pursued postgraduate training in Cincinnati, New York, and Hartford, Connecticut, before he moved to St. Paul to begin his medical practice. He might have continued in this field had circumstance not thrown him a curveball, but Harold determined to follow his passion and to live as if what he did mattered.

At first, Harold’s paintings were of dark portals with only a
glimmer of light, Joan Cox recalls. “Early on he told me his favorite color was black. Now, in retrospect, I know that was important because he was fighting an illness that none of us knew about.

Recognizing his distinctive talent, one of Harold’s art professors suggested he pursue graduate studies in art. At the age of 69, he was accepted as a master’s candidate at the University of Minnesota (U of M) and graduated in 1994 with a 4.0 grade point average. Now 84, he continues to paint four to eight hours a day. Why? “Well, to me it is simple. I have to do it! It is as important as eating,” he declares.

“I kept on living and living, and painting and painting,” says Harold, knowing he repeatedly has cheated death. Clarence Morgan, one of Harold’s professors and head of the U of M art department, says, “Death doesn’t seem to be one of the things Harold fears.” In spite of the grim hepatitis diagnosis, subsequent heart problems, and life-threatening complications from the open heart surgeries, he expresses his pain and emotions daily through his art.

Physician Miriam McCreary states, “He has been in and out of death’s door so many times, and you see this in his paintings.” Carol Raleigh, a nurse anesthetist, says, “Drawing helped him process the pain. He just threw himself into painting and then pretty much had a miraculous remission of the disease.” Eventually blood tests revealed that his liver had somehow ‘cured itself.’ Raleigh summarizes, “He healed himself through art.” Lyndel King, director of the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis where many of Harold’s paintings hang in its permanent collection, says, “His work has grown out of his medical situation. Harold believes that art has saved his life, and I do too!”

Annie Labovitz finds his work intimate and autobiographical. Pointing out that many might expect a person of his age to be more sedate, she says Harold is “just on fire from the art. He is a very enthusiastic person and when he’s going to do something, he is really going to do it full force—full on!”

His paintings are like organic things—he pats and hugs them. Rather than sell them, he prefers to give his paintings to good homes. Each one, he says, is so much a part of him, he considers them ‘living things.’ His artistic career is as impressive as his medical career. One of his art professors asked Harold, “I wonder if you had gone into art when you went into medicine where you’d be now?”

His quick response was “Well, don’t write me off yet!”

Arts advocate Sally Dixon calls Harold Adams a creative visionary. “His personal discovery of the creative life of art, how it restored his life to him and to us, is a marvel, and his work claims that and shows that. He has lived all these years by the making of art, the creative act of painting.”

The multitude of techniques he has developed are particularly creative and distinctive. His niece, Stacey Kelly, describes her uncle’s art as akin to leather, with the layers of gesso, paint, charcoal, and lacquer built up. Harold builds his own canvases, most of which are much taller than he is. He applies six-to-ten layers of paint to the canvases, often using ordinary house paint in addition to artist oils. Often, he uses scraps of towels or rags to dab and smear paint.

Perhaps most distinctive of all is his next step. “The sander is the big thing,” Harold states matter-of-factly. “I sand it, and I get these wonderful surprises,” he says, referring to the colors revealed after grinding though the paint to various depths. Sometimes texture is achieved through what is sanded off and what is put onto the canvas. Dr. Gary Christenson, a psychiatrist at U of M’s Boynton Health Services, where many of Harold’s creations are displayed, says, “He has developed a very unique style, using the sander to reveal layers, sweeping up the sandings, and then adding that back in. He was

continued on p. 28
In August 2006, Sharon Labovitz, a trustee of the San Diego Art Museum, called Phyllis Hughes, ’66, in the College’s Development Office to ask about making a gift to Berea in honor of Dr. Harold R. Adams, ’48. Adams, a retired physician and current visual artist from St. Paul, had told her how much the College meant to him. Sharon wanted to honor Dr. Adams at Berea.

Two things happened after that conversation. Sharon Labovitz established the Harold Adams Scholarship endowment, designated for a Berea College biology student. She also became the catalyst that allowed contemporary Bereans to become acquainted with the powerful visual arts created by Harold Adams through permanent displays of Adams’ canvases on campus.

In the Labovitz family, art is a constant. Sharon said her daughter Anne, a highly regarded artist herself, became a dear friend of Adams nearly 20 years ago when he and she were taking art classes together at Hamline College. Sharon began to describe to Phyllis the art of this intriguing Berea alumnus. The paintings, she said, were quite contemporary but very good—and very large. Phyllis said that she would love to see them. Immediately, Sharon became excited and asked if the College would like to own some of his art work.

Soon after their telephone conversation, Phyllis received a packet of large photos of Adams’ work, which she sent to Dr. Robert Boyce, ’66, in the art department, asking him to review them. After an enthusiastic viewing, Bob and Phyllis boarded an airplane to St. Paul to visit Adams and see for themselves the more than 100 paintings and drawings in his home and studio.

Sharon still enjoys telling the story of how her daughter and Adams met. “You know how students dress for studio art classes,” she said. “He showed up the first day of class in a suit and tie....” Adams has become a close friend of the entire family, and Sharon says she and her husband, entrepreneur and businessman Joel Labovitz, have enjoyed many gourmet dinners in Adams’ home.

During the summers, the Labovitzes reside in Duluth; the remainder of the year they live in La Jolla, California.

Art Drew Them Together

Not every painting bears a title, although every painting bares a life lived. Harold Adams thinks of his work as a visual diary.
crumpling newspaper, soaking them in paint, and putting them on, and coming out with these very wild textures.”

Morgan says that, “The images are not so much put on the surface, but they grow out of it.”

Always the innovator, Harold applied copies of his medical bills to the canvas. Christenson points out that often he uses paint stripper “getting all sorts of different variegations in the paint from that. He doesn’t stop. He keeps on thinking about new techniques. He is always experimenting, and I suspect that is something that came out of his being a physician — that he had to problem-solve.”

Harold likes the surprise of finding something new. “That is my goal—to make it unique and to encourage others to try my techniques.”

In that he has succeeded. Dr. Christenson, who became Harold’s ‘project,’ has also begun to paint. Joan Cox formerly painted realistic landscapes until she fell under the Adams spell. “He encouraged me just to make marks; that you didn’t have to know ahead of time what would happen. You just needed to work on that piece until it developed its own life,” Cox says. “It wasn’t as if he were showing me step-by-step. It was more that he was giving encouragement and support, saying, ‘Go for it, kid!’ Go for it was sort of his mantra.”

Harold Adams was the ideal graduate art student, professor Caglioti says. “He challenged, demanded, and explored incessantly this thing called painting. Harold exemplifies the genuine artist’s passion for painting. His work reveals that he is aware and accepting of a most difficult human condition — the coexistence of contradiction at the center of life and art. The translation of the ancient Egyptian word for artist is ‘preserver of life.’ Harold knows the significance of this better than most artists.”

Mason Riddle, a widely published art critic, sums up Dr. Adams’ two careers succinctly. “His medicine was an art, now his art has become his medicine.”
Every day new medicines are designed to fight a variety of diseases. All around the world today people have been inoculated and rendered immune from what were once deadly epidemics, such as polio, typhoid, scarlet fever, and influenza. Despite our medical advances, there are still maladies and diagnoses that everyone fears.

Cancer tops that list. Cancer’s abnormal multiplication of cells can affect virtually any part of the body. Cancer causes hundreds of thousands of deaths every year and afflicts people regardless of age, race, or apparent health status. Nearly everyone knows someone whose life has been affected by cancer.

In Berea the search for treatment and a possible cure moves forward through chemistry professor Mark Cunningham. A passion for medicinal chemistry has fueled his ongoing research for years. Now, he draws upon his students to help him move forward with researching a drug that could combat a wide range of cancers, including lung, breast, cervical, and prostate cancers.

“I’ve always been interested in cancer research,” says Mark, “because it’s just such a terrible disease and takes so many lives. Each year over 200,000 people are diagnosed with breast cancer alone, and 40,000 of those die. I just wanted to make a difference, and this has the potential for broad impact.”

The drug would work by acting in similar ways to retinoic acids, the specific compounds formed in the body from vitamin A. These compounds bind to DNA proteins and control cell growth and multiplication. One strategy in designing cancer drugs is to make them similar to natural compounds, but with only slight modifications. This strategy ensures that the drug is active, with little or preferably no side effects – the primary drawback to cancer drugs currently on the market.

“Cancer is so difficult to treat because you have to design something that will kill the cancer cells and not harm the normal cells. Hopefully, this compound would be something that the cancerous cells would accept, but the normal cells would know the difference,” he says.

Tamira Coussett, ’08, a chemistry major from Decatur, Georgia, was one of several students who has helped the assistant professor of chemistry with his summer research, building databases from previous research and using software to sketch the molecule. “Once we knew exactly how to target specific receptor proteins in the cell and how it interacted with different amino acids,” says Coussett, “we had a good idea of what the molecule needed to look like.”

Whether or not the drug will work as hoped, time will tell, but the research is already having an effect on the students who work with Mark. For Coussett, this research brought together her coursework and the needs of society. “This research helped me put it into perspective. Sometimes in class you grow tired of the equations and reactions, but it was really cool that I could take what I have learned and make a difference – and maybe eventually save someone’s life.”

A Lesson Today to Cure Tomorrow

By Amanda Hensley, ’10
Dechen Jamling, ’11, looks like an average Berea College student. In the late May heat of Kentucky, she appears on campus in shorts and a tee-shirt, laptop in tow, her thoughts on finals in anatomy and psychology. It is a little surprising, then, to learn that back in Dharmasala, India, Dechen, a refugee of Tibet, has already completed six years of schooling to earn the title Dr. Dechen Jamling – Doctor of Tibetan Medicine.

Dechen is a second-generation doctor. Her mother, Dawa Dolma, has practiced Tibetan medicine for 32 years and currently heads the research department at the Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, where both mother and daughter received their educations. This past spring, Dawa visited her daughter in Berea on her sixth, jam-packed trip to the United States. This trip, like many she has taken around the world, provides a way for Dawa to educate others about Tibetan medicine. In a break from seeing patients in Berea, Dawa and Dechen sat down to educate Berea College Magazine readers about exactly what Tibetan medicine is.

While most of us have never heard of Tibetan medicine, it is not some “new age” way of healing. Tibetan medicine is a well-defined medical system with roots that date back to the fourth century. As early as the seventh century, Tibet was hosting its own medical conference, inviting physicians from India, China, and Persia. Tibetan doctors then fused the combined medical knowledge of each culture with their own indigenous Tibetan healing to solidify the Tibetan medical system.

Dechen describes Tibetan medicine as “the practice of healing, science, and art together.” The system is considered a holistic system, meaning that doctors like Dechen and Dawa spend as much time learning about a person’s daily routine as they do assessing vital signs.
This story begins a long, long time ago in a distant foreign land. This is no fairy tale though. It is the story of an ancient healing tradition and how Tibetan medicine has recently made its way to Berea.

Tibetan medicine seeks to treat root causes — not symptoms. Patients, therefore, are advised to change factors in their lifestyle that may be disturbing the balance of their health. Changes in diet, work conditions, relationships, or daily environment may all be recommended depending on the diagnosed condition. For example, patients with arthritis may find themselves on an anti-inflammatory drug in the United States, but in the Tibetan system, Dawa says, they would likely find themselves diagnosed with “ill stomach disease,” whose cause she assesses as “eating the wrong kinds of food for a long time.” Thus, the patient would be prescribed, first and foremost, with a change in diet.

Only after these factors of lifestyle are addressed do practitioners consider, in more acute cases, treating symptoms through therapies like hot baths, massage, or the use of traditional Tibetan herbal remedies.

These herbal remedies come from the mountainous region around Tibet. Both Dechen and Dawa have made yearly trips to learn to identify plants and their uses as part of their medical training. The instillation of this herbal knowledge has been more challenging for the generations, that fled Tibet after the Chinese invasion of the country in 1959. Dawa was then only nine years old. She and her family, who farmed in the central region of Tibet, took refuge with other Tibetans in India. Many medical practitioners and teachers in Tibet were imprisoned by the Chinese. Most died in prison, and the majority of ancient healing texts were destroyed.

The Tibetan people were determined not to forget their culture, including their medical tradition. In 1961, three years after entering exile, the Dalai Lama reestablished the Tibetan Medical Institute in India, which had thrived in Tibet since 1916. Dawa was among the first students to be accepted into the reestablished school.

“The teachers told us that Tibetan culture was being destroyed,” remembers Dawa, “and that one way to preserve it was through learning the Tibetan medical system.” Dawa took a placement exam offered to all Tibetan school children and gained entry into the school. After receiving a free education, Dawa has spent the 32 years since her graduation serving the Institute as a doctor, researcher, and global advocate for the Tibetan medical system.

Dechen says her mother’s life of learning and service has been a great inspiration. Since childhood, Dechen has learned about Tibetan medicine from her mother’s work, and her mother has also served as a great advisor in Dechen’s medical career. “If I don’t know about a patient’s condition, I always ask her,” says Dechen. “I can learn from her practice; at the same time I can explore my own mission.”

Dechen’s mother hopes that her daughter will be a “good resource for Tibet.”

Another reason Dechen came to Berea was to better her English. The Tibetan medical world frequently uses translators to share their knowledge with others, but translators often have no background in the field, and thus, may translate incorrectly. Dechen’s mother hopes that her daughter will be a “good resource for Tibet.”

This fall, Dechen also began learning about complementary and conventional health care through her student labor position with Berea’s local WaysMeet Healing Arts Center. WaysMeet gathers practitioners of integrative healing arts, including massage, acupuncture, counseling, and Qui Gong. Dechen will be supervised by Dr. Maureen Flannery. Dechen will coordinate Dr. Flannery’s community acupuncture clinic, receive patients, and help sessions to go smoothly. Dr. Flannery says she is “looking forward to learning about traditional Tibetan medicine from Dechen, while providing her with an opportunity to observe one approach to the integration of Eastern and Western medicine.”

Dechen is also excited about her new position. “Working with people is what I like,” says Dechen, especially, she notes, in a health care setting.

Dechen holds one of the most ancient healing traditions within her, and yet she is humbly open to the world around her. Extremely grateful for her opportunity to study at Berea, she happily maneuvers about campus, like any other student. One would never know she was a doctor in disguise.
On the table before her lay an array of savory snacks and exotic spices, such as anise, coriander, cardamom, nutmeg, fenugreek, and turmeric. Wanda Dodson, '63, a Mississippi State University Professor Emeritus of Foods and Nutrition, attended Berea’s International Fair and provided attendees with information on the relationship food plays in the role of health.

Wanda Dodson is a student of the oldest known nutritional science—Ayurveda. Practiced in India for more than 3,000 years, Ayurveda is a lifestyle that combines the use of foods and spices for their healing properties with the call to live productively and morally. Currently the Western medical system is studying the connection between the healing properties of Ayurvedic food and spices on specific health conditions. Wanda notes, for instance, a current study on the effectiveness of cranberry juice to treat and prevent urinary tract infections. She observes that regardless of the recent studies and their outcomes, Ayurveda asserts that food can only make you healthier, not healthy.

Wanda Dodson began studying Ayurveda in 1996 while on a Fulbright scholarship to India. She believes that Ayurveda has a unique perspective compared to her Western nutritional education because, she says, “it teaches that we humans are inherently unhealthy, that health is not a static state but a very active and dynamic state that we experience all of our lives.”

Since her retirement and return to Monticello, Kentucky, Wanda says she has had “more time to reflect on well-being.” Her main interest is how to adapt the beneficial teachings of Ayurveda for a modern Western audience. Teaching Americans Ayurvedic nutrition turns out to be extremely difficult, she says, because the American attitude is often “let me do this diet for six weeks, or let me do yoga for six months, or let me meditate periodically.” This fad mentality runs contrary to the lifestyle commitment of a system like Ayurveda, in which health is a “constant, day-to-day process.”
Dr. Hazel Nixon Brown

As a child living in poverty on a North Carolina tenant farm, Hazel Nixon Brown, '62, helped her family scrabble a living in the tobacco fields. “I knew as a young child that the only way to escape that way of life was to do well in school and go to college. Thankfully, there was Berea College for people like me.”

Hazel graduated from Berea with a nursing degree and furthered her studies from there. Today, she works with primary pregnancy prevention in teenagers. College-Bound Sisters (CBS), an organization she co-founded, admits girls from the ages of 12-16. All of the participants have a sister who became an adolescent mother. “Young girls, especially those at high risk for pregnancy, need all the help they can get to break the cycle of adolescent childbearing and poverty that prevails in their families.”

As she was growing up, she never saw an unwed teenage mother, although Hazel visited the homes of many teen mothers when she became older. “Like me, their only way out of the poverty they were in was to get an education. With a baby, that’s difficult to do. A teenager’s life trajectory seems to follow the path of others in their family in poverty for a lifetime.”

CBS implements short-term and long-term goal setting as priorities for its participants. “We give each girl $5 in transportation money, which serves as a here-and-now incentive.” CBS also puts $7 into a college fund for each girl every time she attends a meeting. The money is not available until they enroll in college. A bulletin board keeps track of the current amount in each participant’s college fund. If any girl becomes pregnant, drops out of school, or does not attend college, she forfeits the money. “These young women need something positive to work toward, like a high school diploma and college, not just something to work against, such as avoiding pregnancy. People work best when working toward a positive, as opposed to working against a negative.”

Altering the lives of teenagers is far more important than the statistics that support her cause. Hazel recalls one young woman in particular whose life was forever changed because of her participation in CBS. “When Ashley graduated from high school, she talked about her only sister having had three babies as a teenager.” Ashley remembered herself fighting with others in elementary school and failing the seventh grade. After joining CBS, Hazel said, Ashley’s attitude changed. “She entered high school and reported saying to herself, ‘I can do that. I can make good grades and go to college.’”

Ashley did make high marks, even taking advanced placement courses. She graduated high school with a 4.19 GPA, is now on the dean’s list at Xavier University, and will graduate in May 2008 with a doctorate of pharmacy.

Hazel has traveled extensively around the world to present papers about the
adolescent pregnancy prevention programs she established and operated. “Adolescent pregnancy is a huge problem in the U.S., and for the past 11 years, CBS has been successful in helping adolescent girls prevent pregnancies, graduate from high school, enroll in college, and graduate.” Local and international organizations recognize and award Hazel for her endeavors. Her organization has also received a $300,000 grant for the next four years.

At the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Hazel chairs the School of Nursing’s Department of Parent-Child Nursing. She places a strong emphasis on the connection between an individual’s education and his or her health. “When people know about best health practices and follow those best practices, their health is increasingly better.”

Meg and Emel Atkins

In 1992, Dr. Emel Atkins, ’57, and Meg Atkins, ’58, co-founded Missionary Health Service (MHS), which travels to the village of Chapagua, Honduras, to serve indigent patients and promote health education in their Whispering Hope Clinic. The retired dentist and former guidance counselor put time and effort in a place where houses sometimes wash away in the rains, roads are not maintained, and health care is not available. They say that even if it were available, the people could not afford it.

“It’s an outreach to those who have little to nothing,” says Emel.

Littered with wooden houses that have thatched or tin roofs and dirt floors, the community of Chapagua is located in a pocket of poverty that is surrounded by 15 other villages. MHS attends the needs of the nearly 6,000 people living in the 15 villages that surround the clinic. The only person on the payroll at Missionary Health Service is the security guard, who lives inside the clinic to protect it.

The villagers make up 40-50 percent of the clinic work force. “They are involved in being a part of the solutions for their needs,” Meg says. “It is a partnership that we are proud and thankful for!”

Twice a year (in February and September) the couple and their volunteer medical team of physicians, dentists, pharmacists, lab technicians, nurse practitioners, and nurses arrive in Chapagua. They carry with them $35-50,000 in donated medicines, $9-10,000 in purchased medicines, plus other medical supplies needed to treat their patients for the next six months. “Besides the clinic’s repair and upkeep,” Emel says, “we must seek out donors for $18-20,000 each year.”

One hundred percent of the donations they receive go directly to the mission to help maintain the clinic. Contributions also supply diabetic and hypertensive patients with enough medicines to last until the next team arrives. To date, the Akin ses have been to Honduras more than 29 times with medical volunteers from 39 states and 3 provinces of Canada.

Emel and Meg agree that education is the key to helping the Hondurans help themselves. They also bring Spanish language books for school libraries, provide seeds for planting, and offer some assistance in starting village ‘cottage industries’ in soap-making and sewing. They work with the idea that it is better to teach a man to fish for a lifetime than to feed him fish for a day. They say this is a labor of love. “With health education as the cornerstone of MHS,” says Meg, “our effects will remain long after our presence and our pills are gone.”

On occasion the couple has assisted those Hondurans who need medical attention in the United States. “One little boy needed surgery at Shriners Hospital in Lexington (Kentucky); he got help there,” Meg says.

The mission team includes doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, translators, and medical technicians from the U.S. and Canada.
Anna Gayle Martin Parke

Anna Gayle Martin Parke, ’83, can probably tell you what that journey might have seemed like to that Honduran boy. In the 20 years that she has been a pediatric orthopedic nurse, Anna Gayle has seen countless children come up and down the highly decorative corridors of Shriners Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky. Some arrive in the surgical unit riding in the vehicle of their choice – a Barbie car or a toy Jeep. Cars or Jeeps are the easy choices. Other choices are not that simple.

“I do a lot of counseling and instructing kids on how to make it through life with a prosthetic limb,” Anna Gayle says. “Sometimes parents have to decide whether or not to amputate their child’s arm or leg. It’s stressful for everybody involved. We want to make a child’s stay here as stress-free as possible.”

Shriners Hospital once treated a Polish girl who needed to have her webbed fingers separated. Although none of the participants in the surgery spoke any of the same languages, Anna Gayle recalls, she participated as a mediator between the girl’s family and the Chinese surgeon who successfully performed the operation. “It was amazing how none of us could communicate with each other orally, yet the emotion was enough to sustain us all. Those amazing 30 minutes created a healing experience I’ve never forgotten.”

She enjoys building relationships with the children she sees. “The advantage of working here is that I get a chance to see my patients grow up.”

Anna Gayle recalls a Bosnian boy who lost his leg after a bomb exploded while he played in his backyard. She admits that she has a difficult time dealing with what happens to many children after they leave the hospital. While at Shriners, many heal from their wounds through rehabilitation and the relaxation of playing Nintendo games; yet many return home “to the same places where they had little resources to begin with.” Despite this, Anna Gayle has seen some children she has helped travel back home, graduate from high school and college, and eventually help those in need who come from the same countries of origin.

She credits Berea professor Michael Rivage-Seul for broadening her perspective of the world. His Issues and Values course “opened my eyes to the idea of the maldistribution of resources,” she says. “There’s plenty for everybody—we just need to share it. I wanted to work with children who didn’t have resources and couldn’t help themselves. Now I work with children who have limb deficiencies and scoliosis.”

A pediatric clinical instructor at Midway College, in Midway, Kentucky, Anna Gayle also supervises nursing students from both Berea College and Midway who come to Shriners for clinical experience. “Teaching provides me the opportunity to give back to the system that taught me,” she says, while walking the hallways of Shriners to check in on the children at play in the recreation room.

“Berea’s nursing program is well-respected in Kentucky; I benefit from it daily.”

One must be unselfish to truly want to help others. If we want to help others, we’ll see what needs to be done and make it happen.

—Dr. Hazel Nixon Brown
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.

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 1.866.804.0591.

THE (TROY) PRICE OF PODCASTING

Berea College alumni are tuning in to participate in a new monthly venture that allows alumni to reconnect with the college and other alumni and keep informed of the latest college happenings.

Every second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m., alumnus Troy Price, ’92, partners with the Alumni Relations and Public Relations departments to begin podcasting live from his home in Frankfort where he interviews selected guests and takes calls from alumni.

Featured guests have included Tomas Klimas, ’07, who just signed a contract to play professional basketball in Romania; Bill Cass, ’07, Berea’s 79-year-old graduate; and Ni Ji, ’07, winner of this year’s Hilda Welch Wood award.

You can participate in the live shows and listen to archived episodes by visiting the alumni portal at www.berea.edu/alumni. The College also plans to podcast basketball games and other campus events this fall. Who do you want to hear from? Contact us at publicrelations@berea.edu.

YEARBOOKS FOR SALE

ONLY $5.00

Contact Diana Taylor via e-mail at diana_taylor@berea.edu or call 866-804-0591 to check for availability and/or to make a purchase. (Not all years are available.)
About Berea People

1941
The nature center at Blackwater Falls State Park was named “Harold S. Walters Nature Center” in honor of Harold Walters, the first state park naturalist. His work over the years was significant to West Virginia state parks, to the community, and to the young people he taught in public schools.

1942
Eugene E. Smith and Virginia Cooper Smith, ’43, are living in Florida year-round.

1945
Charles C. Rayburn, Cx ’45, studied physics after serving in World War II. He produced 78 U.S. patents, some of which are licensed in Europe and Japan. Many of his inventions involve electronic components used in radios, televisions, telecommunication, computers, and consumer products. He and Charlotte Ballard Rayburn, Cx ’45, reside in Albuquerque, NM.

1946
Lucille Davis Juett and Genna Smith Lott were honored at an Alumni Day dinner in March 2007 as volunteers of the year. Lucille volunteers at the Ashland Senior Center, and Genna volunteers for Community Hospice in Ashland, KY. Lucille and Genna reside in Ashland, KY.

1947
Mary E. Hott Perry, Cx ’47, is a retired registered nurse. William “Bill” J. Perry, Cx ’49, is a retired U.S. Navy judge and attorney. The Perrys have five daughters and a large extended family. They enjoy volunteering and living in the Blue Ridge foothills in Esley, SC.

1949
Robert C. Vandiver, Noy ’49-44, is recuperating from a serious lung infection. He has relocated to a nursing home in the Blue Ridge foothills of Richmond, VA.

1950
Bill Evans, Cx ’50, was the flame bearer at the 2007 National Senior Games in Louisville, KY where he lives. Bill was an Olympic gold medalist in basketball in 1956.

1951
Virginia Ballen Branscum works with a diabetic support group and a water group in Rockcastle County, KY.

1952
Walter W. Jacobs, Fl ’48, was captain of a tennis team that won the South Carolina Championship in November 2006 and the Southern Championship in Columbus, GA in April 2007. Walter resides in Greenville, GA.

1954
Ellie Boggs Creamer and Glen Creamer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by taking their family on a Carnival Cruise to the eastern Caribbean in June 2006. Ellie and Glen reside in Hilltops, TX.

1956
Elizabeth “Ann” Hampton Peters and James Marvin Peters, Cx ’56, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 1, 2006 with a Caribbean cruise which included children, grandchildren, and other extended family.

1957
Guy Hansmeier retired in 2000 as a librarian with the Cincinnati Public Library. He spends his time with family, church, community affairs, and gardening. Guy resides in Morphy, NC near many of his relatives.

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. 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. Please include your class year and name used while attending Berea. Notes may be edited for style and length. Our print deadlines may delay the appearance of your class news. For more information on how to submit class notes and photographs, call 1-866.804.0591, email diana_taylor@berea.edu, or log on to www.berea.edu/alumni.

1959
Rachel Keen is a professor and a highly regarded researcher in the field of psychology. She has been successful in two very different fields, child development and the field of acoustics. After many years at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Rachel recently moved to join the psychology department at the University of Virginia. She resides in Charlottesville, VA.

1960
Thelma Miller Kich moved from Newport News, VA to Richmond, KY in order to be with children and grandchildren. She would enjoy hearing from friends.

1962
Celia Hooper Miles, Valerie Bauhouser, and Janet Nee Gilchrist could not make it to their 45th class reunion this past summer but enjoyed a week's stay on Tybee Island, GA "remembering the good times." All are now retired and living in North Carolina, Texas, and Georgia, respectively. Fultondale Elementary School in Fultondale, AL named their media center in honor of Lee H. Morton, who died in June 1998. Lee served as principal of the school for 18 years.

1964
Wendell Lee Wright was granted a patent for "Inerting Protection of Sensors." He resides in Huntington, IN.

1965
Gloria Hyder Richards is the new Alpha Iota state corresponding secretary for the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, an honorary society for key women educators. She resides in Albion, M.

1966
J. Bruce McKinney retired in March 2007. He worked in state service for 25 years in the attorney general’s office as staff attorney representing the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He and Margaret Jordan McKinney, ’68, reside in Morganton, NC.

James “Bones” Owens and Rachel Upchurch Owens have moved to the Berea/Richmond area. Bones retired from the South Carolina Public Service Authority (State Cooper), and Rachel retired from the Berkeley County School District (South Carolina). They invite all their classmates and Berea friends to visit them at any time.

1969
Lt. Col. (Ret.) Benny D. Long is manager of the maintenance records department for American Eagle Airlines, Inc. He and Barbara, his wife, reside in Aiken, TX.

1970
Dr. Charlotte Benson was inducted into the Kentucky Institute of Medicine. Charlotte is the executive director of the Kentucky Board of Nursing and resides in Louisville, KY.
1971
Dr. Lonnie R. Helton is the co-director of the Center for Healing across Cultures at Cleveland State University. He coordinated an international conference on holistic health at Loyola College in Kerala, India this past summer. As a specialist on Appalachian folk medicine, he conducted cross-cultural field research in India.

Guyson Saine is retired. Wanda Saine is a senior internal auditor for Allina WX. The couple resides in Shelby, NC.

1977
Married: Ken Bradshaw to Robin Housfield on April 6, 2007. Ken is a librarian at the West Kentucky Community and Technical College. The couple resides in Paducah, KY.

Kay Heming Kelly accepted a position at the Francis and Louise Hutchins Center for International Education at Berea College as advisor for international students and scholars. She previously worked with Hobart and William Smith Colleges in New York. Kay conducted doctoral work in educational psychology at the University of Chicago and has taught English as a Second Language while living in Japan.

1979
Randy Miller met President George W. Bush during the President's visit to Shenandoah National Park this year. Randy is the supervisor of roads and grounds at Shenandoah.

Greta Farmer Miller has been the executive director of the Shenandoah National Park Association for 26 years. The couple resides on their 55-acre farm in Stanley, VA.

Shawnta Ruma is an auditor in the Division of Child Support Enforcement, Commonwealth of Virginia, and resides in Richmond, VA.

Rocky Wallace received a doctorate in strategic leadership from Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA. He is the director of instructional support for Kentucky Educational Development Corporation in Ashland, KY. Rocky also teaches leadership classes as an adjunct professor for Morehead State University's Graduate School of Education. He and Denise, his wife, have two teen-ages daughters, Lauren and Bethany.

1980
Patrick Igwebuie Chukwueolu is a broadcaster for the state-owned Radio Nigeria in Lagos, Nigeria where he resides.

1982
Dorothy Deavers Bynum and David Bynum reside in Toms Brook, VA.

1983
Stil N. Bojang, MSW, LGSW attended an international youth service conference in Accra, Ghana, and has received a promotion at work. He has two sons.

Hal Haynes was promoted to vice president for Student Development at Dickinson State University in North Dakota. Before his promotion he was the senior director for Student Life at the university.

David Meier and co-author Jeffrey Liker of the University of Michigan have published their second book, Toyota Talent – Developing Your People the Toyota Way. Meier and Liker also published the international business best-seller, The Toyota Way Fieldbook, which has been printed in six languages. David founded a consulting business

Estep Accepts Position as College President

Dr. J. Mark Estep, ’77, began his tenure as president of Southwest Virginia Community College this summer. In addition to holding a bachelor’s degree from Berea, Estep received his master’s degree in industrial arts and education from Murray State University and his doctorate in practical arts and vocational technical education from the University of Missouri. Prior to his presidency at Southwest Virginia Community College, Estep served as the dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC from 2003-07.

Of his appointment to SVCC, he said, “I think community colleges are our future. I am so impressed with what I’ve seen here.”

He and his wife, Patricia Campbell Estep, ’77, reside in Cedar Bluff, VA.

1984
Sharon Robb Allen was named the Nurse of the Year out of 1,800 nurses at Northwest Medical Center in Concord, NC. Bill Allen, her husband, teaches high school Spanish and journalism. They have two teen-ages children, Kenan and Robert. The family resides in Charlotte, NC.

Karlene D. Kincaid has published 14 poems and won eight awards for her writing. She resides in Sarasota, FL.

Mary Thomas transferred from Parks & Recreation to the Ohio Department of National Resources Division of Forestry. She and Amanda, her daughter, reside in McDermott, OH.

1985
Mike Bobic is director of institutional research at Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, GA. He is completing a book on former Senate majority leader Howard Baker scheduled to be published in December 2007. He and Jennifer, his wife, celebrated 19 years of marriage this year.

1986
Kevin Messer had an exhibition of his mixed-media paintings in the Hutchins Library at Berea College in May and June. In October his work appeared in St. James Court Art Show in Louisville, KY. Kevin resides in Lexington, KY.

Married: Donna Osborne to Larry Brown on June 12, 2004. They reside in Somerset, KY.

Married: Donna King Roque on October 6, 2006. Donna is a litigation assistant at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Shreck in Denver, CO. Manny is a senior systems engineer for Raytheon Corporation. They reside in Northglenn, CO.

Margo Mueller Selski is a painter and adjunct art faculty. She is exclusively represented by Glass Garage Fine Art Gallery in West Hollywood, CA and her work can be viewed on their website. Daniel James Selski, ’87, is a biology professor at Central Washington University. The couple resides in Ellensburg, WA.

1987
Jennifer Tharp Clark has been a breast cancer survivor since 2005. She is secretary-treasurer of Clark Interiors, Inc. Jennifer and Dan, her husband, reside in Stone Mountain, GA.

William “Brent” Long completed his master’s degree in school administration from Appalachian State University and is the assistant principal at East Surry High School in Pilot Mountain, NC. William and Carmen Sturgill Long reside in Pilot Mountain, NC.

1988
Joey Dee Centers is supervisor at Motor Wheel of Berea and Kimberly Jo Ford Centers, ’89, is a teacher at Berea Community Elementary. They reside in Berea and have three children, Whitnee, Bethanne, and Jayden.

1990
Julie Ramey Bush and Bill Bush are self-employed at Garden Gate Greenhouse. Julie is also an independent sales director with Mary Kay Cosmetics. They and daughter Katie reside in Guyon, KY.

1991
Nicol Dowd Chapman and Rick Chapman celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. They have a son, Ian, and daughter, Morgan. Nicole is an actor at the Bower Theater and a junior high teacher at Hunt City Schools. The family resides in Hunt, FL.

Leeann Isaca led a team in building a computer for Losee’s Home Improvement’s new Oregon regional distribution center in Lebanon, OR, where she now resides.

1992
Menelas N. Karamichalis graduated in May 2007 with a master of engineering management from Washington University, St. Louis, MO.

Brenda Ferguson Sebastian Mucum graduated in May from West Virginia University with a master’s degree in nursing and certification as a family nurse practitioner. She and James Mucum reside in Williamsburg, WV.


Birth: a son, Parker Hamilton Thomas Reedy, to Deirdre Gage Reedy and Michael Reedy on December 1, 2006. The family resides in New York, NY.
Married: Randall T. Stewart to Becky D. Stewart on March 10, 2007. Randall has been employed with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for 15 years. The couple resides in Manchester, TN.

1993
Married: Dr. Michael Papantonakis to Rachel Dobrow on May 20, 2007 in Marblehead, MA. In attendance at the wedding were Jason Yates, ’96, and groomsman Keith Montgomery, ’94. Michael is employed as a research physicist at the US. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC. The couple resides in Washington, DC.

1994
Melinda Wofford is a Girls Scouts leader in Mercer County and is involved in numerous other volunteer projects. She resides in Burgin, KY.

1995
Birth: a son, Luke Wilson Gregg, to Ruth Kegley Gregg and Jason Gregg, ’96, on February 2, 2007. They have another son, Seth Landon Gregg. Jason is on the faculty at Beckfield College and works part time as an advanced registered nurse practitioner for the St. Luke Acobol and Drug Treatment Center in Falmouth, KY. He is in his second term on the Falmouth City Council. Ruth is employed with Patient First Physician’s Group.

Daniel Snell is a regional coordinator for Pennsylvania’s second Breeding Bird Atlas Project. He resides in Shippensburg, PA.

Married: Michael Woldridge to Shannon Hendricks on May 12, 2007. They reside in Brandenburg, KY.

1996
Wendell R. Clark received his juris doctor degree from the University of Akron School of Law in May 2007. He resides in Akron, OH.

Leonard “Jenny” Poage was ordained a deacon in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Huntington, WV. He teaches English at Gallia Academy High School in Gallipolis, OH. Jenny and Jenny, his wife, reside in Huntington, WV.

1997
Deonna Johnson Muhammad earned a master’s degree from the University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work in May 2007. She resides in Jeffersonville, IN.

Josh Powell is superintendent of Covington Independent Schools and Kentucky’s youngest superintendent. He resides in Hardinsburg, KY.

Birth: a son, Tyler Mathew Simon, to Mathew J. Simon and Julie Pragur Simon, ’96, on April 21, 2006. Mathew finished his residency at Jewish Hospital and started his practice at Montgomery Internal Medicine in July 2006. The family resides in West Chester, OH.

Birth: a daughter, Allison Joy Tronc, to Kristi Pedigo Tronc, Cx, ’97, and Jon Tronc on April 20, 2007. The family resides in Indianapolis, IN.

1998
Birth: a daughter, Paige Kelley Miller, to Jason Miller and Kristin Kelley Miller on May 7, 2007. The family resides in Lexington, KY.

Bryan E. Walters and Theresa Sanders Walters work as contractors for the Kentucky Department of Education in Frankfort, KY. The family resides in Richmond, KY with their son Daniel.

1999
Married: Marisa FitzGerald to Chad All in December 29, 2006 in Berea, KY. Alumni in the wedding included Mae Suraume, ’95, Heather McNew Schill, ’99, Dana McQerry Bailey, ’00, Lavanya WJeratne, ’99, and Fannom FitzGerald. ’03. Marisa is a family and consumer science agent with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and Chad works for the Kentucky Democratic Party. The family resides in Lexington, KY.

Birth: a daughter, Halley Marie Moore, to Courtney DiAnne Moore on May 1, 2007. They have another daughter, Grace Kenedy Moore, age two. Courtney is employed in the US. Attorney’s Office in Cincinnati, OH. Scott is employed for CSX Railroad. The family resides in Union, KY.

Birth: a son, Camden Matthew Starks, to Terry Starks and Murlena Rutledge Starks, ’91, on November 30, 2006. They have one other son, Ethan Tyler. Terry received his master’s degree in education from Western Kentucky University in May 2006. He is a health/PE teacher and coach at Webster County High School. Murlena is a social worker for the state of Kentucky in Hopkins County. They reside in Madisonville, KY.

2000

2001
Linda Sexton Heneman was awarded a master’s degree in agriculture at Morehead State University in May 2007. She is employed at University of Kentucky and is the Greenup County extension agent for agriculture and natural resources. Linda and George, her husband, reside on their 100-acre farm in Greenup, KY.

2002
Andrew Judd is working on a master of social work degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

Karen Stewart is a judicial assistant at the Circuit Court House and she resides in Lexington, KY.

2003
Rashad Abdur-Rahman is a therapeutic child support counselor. He co-authored a manuscript for publication cont. is in the 1st year of graduate school at the Kent School of Social Work. Rashad resides in Louisville, KY.

Steven Goodpastor is director of development for the DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, TN. He is responsible for fundraising and constituent development. Steven and Jennifer Egbyugh Goodpastor reside in Knoxville, TN.

Kenetta Knight received her juris doctor degree in May 2007 from Birmingham School of Law. She resides in Birmingham, AL.

Maggie Lee Stevens graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine with the degree of doctor of osteopathic medicine in May 2007. She is interning at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Jacksonville, FL in family medicine.

Katy Jones Saltbridge is director of emergency services for the Mid-Ohio Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross based in Parkersburg, WV. She resides in Vincent, OH.

Birth: a daughter, Taylor Lynn Thompson, to Joe Bob Thompson and Melissa Thompson on November 5, 2006. The family resides in Louisville, KY.

Birth: a son, William Jesse Weissman, to Brandi Atkins Weissman and Michael Weissman, ’07, in December 2006. Brandi is attending the University of the District of Columbia A Clark School of Law. The family resides in Brea, KY.

2004
Chris Backe is writing a book about homeschoolers making the transition from homeschooling to the real world; dancing, singing, and creative art. He resides in Lexington, KY.

Darla Evansonsky, Cx, ’94, is a collective member of the Seward Community Café, a natural foods cooperative that is member-owned and operated. She resides in Minneapolis, MN.

Married: Jessica Carr Hazel to Kjle Hazel on May 31, 2007 in Cape Cod, MA. She received her master’s degree in May 2007 in industrial organizational psychology from Middle Tennessee State University. Jessica is employed as compensation manager in Franklin, TN.

Mark Woolwine is employed at Western Kentucky University. He resides in Bowling Green, KY.

2005
Patricia Feeneey is on the staff of the Ohio River Valley Environmental Coalition and works out of Mingo County, WV on coal sludge safety issues.

Jason Bults interned at the Centre for Science and Environment in New Delhi, India for nine months in 2007.

Married: Casey Poe to Jennifer Kilikus on April 14, 2007. Casey is pursuing a master’s degree in international commerce and Jennifer is pursuing a doctoral degree in clinical psychology. They are attending the University of Kentucky and reside in Lexington.

2006
Emily Soo Kim Hetcher is working on her master’s degree in exercise physiology at the University of Kentucky. She resides in Lexington, KY.

Crystal Ford is in a graduate program in Charleston, SC.

Destiny Harper is working on her master’s of science degree in collegiate student affairs administration at Northern Kentucky University. She resides in Alexandria, KY.

William Guède Moore is in the Graduate School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. as an Arrage Scholar. He is studying foreign and international security policy and is working towards a certificate in refugee and humanitarian emergencies.

Married: Cassandra Russell to Shawn Wirley, ’07, on July 22, 2006 in Brandenburg, KY. They reside in Berea, KY.

2007
Dani Finto and her mother are partners in DP Specialists, LLC, a tee-shirt business which can be seen on-line. She resides in Monticello, KY.
Marguerite Herbaugh Lawson of Alexandria, VA died September 30, 2006. She was the widow of Joseph W. Lawson, Ch '36. She is survived by her six children.

Mabel Birtie Emerson, '38, of Birmingham, AL died May 26, 2007. She was a chemistry teacher for 30 years. Mabel is survived by Janet E. Briley, her daughter, and Robert S. Emerson, her son.

Carolle Kerler McCloud, '38, of Wilmington, DE died April 28, 2007. She was a retired school librarian and in 1998 funded at Berea College the Carlisle Kerler MacCloud Scholarship for Study Abroad during short term and the summer. Carlisle is survived by Dr. Steven Kerler, her husband.

Isaac Leonids Micheli, '38, of Lewisburg, WV died June 24, 2007. He was a retired educator. Isaac served in the South Pacific for 27 months during World War II and remained in the reserves. He is survived by his grandson, John J. Mitchell, Jr.

M. Stanley Vail, '38, of Lexington, KY died June 14, 2007. He was a teacher, farmer, furniture and basket maker, and supporter of education and farm programs. He oversaw construction of the University of Kentucky's agricultural sciences building. Stanley was awarded Berea's 1973 Distinguished Alumni Award. He is survived by Ruby Hannah Vail, his wife of 68 years.

David A. Beldon, '39, of Ashland, KY died April 2, 2007. He retired from a lifelong career with Ashland Oil Inc. as director of corporate logistics. He is survived by James D. Beldon, his son, and Nancy Lee Kendra, his daughter.

Ida Mae Flerritt Gilmore, '39, of Middletown, KY died May 14, 2007. She had taught in junior college, university, and public schools. Ida Mae is survived by her sisters Margaret Vincent and Katherine Truesdell.

Christine Brock Goodrich, Knapp Hall Cx '40, of Middletown, KY died May 25, 2007. She was a homemaker, cookbook collector, flower garden designer, and Honorable Kentucky Colonel. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Holt Goodrich, Jr., Acad Cx '43.

Earle V. Powell, '40, of Frankfort, KY died April 15, 2007. He was deputy attorney general of the Commonwealth of Kentucky from 1953-61, commissioner of economic security, and president of Citizens Security Life Insurance. Earle was a World War II Air Force veteran. He is survived by Robert V. Powell, his son.

Earnest "Gabby" Gendron Gibbard, '41, of Houston, TX died June 15, 2007. He served in the Navy during World War II. He taught theatre and directed plays before becoming a professional actor. He appeared in commercials and print ads. Gabby and his wife had small roles in the motion pictures Prelude to a Kiss (1992), Blink (1994), and My Best Friend's Wedding (1997). He is survived by Ken Gibbard and Glen Gibbard, his sons.

Lois Cascio Littlejohn of Fell City, AL died May 31, 2007. She was the widow of E.O. Littlejohn, '41, who died in October 1997.

Dr. Carl Wesel of Lexington, KY died May 13, 2007. He is survived by Ethel Bordon Wesel, '41, his wife of 64 years. Lillian A Bantz of Chicago, IL is survived by her daughter, John Bantz, navy V-12 '44-43, her husband.

Nancy Minicki-Kettler, '43, of Hyattsville, MD died June 7, 2006. She was an educator, and later a clerk for Alexandria County Social Services. She is survived by Mark Minicki, his son, and Nancy Minicki-Kettler, his daughter.

Carolyn Harold Murphy, Navy V-12 '43-44, of Haliford Corner, VA died May 8, 2007. He and his wife founded Graphic Engineering and Construction Service & Equipment Inc. Gordon served in the Navy during WWII. He is survived by Adell Murphy, his wife.

Richard "Dick" Lee Page, Navy V-12 '43-44, of Asheville, NC died April 12, 2007. He had worked as a stockbroker with MCGee Company Investments. He is survived by four nieces.

Ezra Orth Davis, '44, of Crawfordsville, IN died May 12, 2007. She was a retired school teacher. She is survived by Linda McEvers and Ruth Grant, her daughters, and William H. Davis, Jr., her son.

Helen Spence Scruggs, Cx '45, of Lexington, KY died December 4, 2006.

Ruth Crawford Smith, '45, of Pinnacle, NC died May 5, 2007. She is survived by her five children.

Rev. Bither Vodola, '45, of Shelton, CT died May 18, 2007. She is survived by Grace Van Welden, her sister.

Clarence Pepper, Navy V-12 '45-46, of Hamburg, NY died March 25, 2007. He is survived by Doris Dalmus Pepper, his wife.

Georgia Baird Hottman, B'46, of Alexandria, KY died April 6, 2006.

Daniel S. Judd, Cx '46, of Columbus, SC, died January 28, 2007. He operated Judd Furniture and Supply and later he and his wife founded a tax and accounting firm, Dan served in World War II. He is survived by Margaret Noselle Shipman Judd, his wife of 60 years.

Rex Wesley, '46, of London, KY died April 12, 2007. He was a retired Laurel County extension agent and community development specialist. Rex served in WWII and received the Bronze Star, Air Medal, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He is survived by Margaret Miller Wesley, '41, his wife.

Hollis B. Copeland, '47, of Tuscola, TX died May 6, 2007. He had been a chemist and later an educator. Hollis was a Navy veteran. He is survived by Beth Bragg and Gayle Hisson, his daughters, and David Copeland, his son.

Gniny Mason Taylor, '47, of Boca Raton, FL died May 28, 2007. She was formerly a registered nurse at Putte A Clay Regional Medical Center in Richmond, KY, a farmer, and wife. She is survived by James T. Mason, Jr., his son, and Margaret Engsell, his daughter.

Duane D. Hutchinson, Br '48, of Lincoln, NE died March 5, 2007. He was a retired Methodist minister, professional storyteller, and author of many books. He is survived by Marilyn Hutchinson, his wife of 56 years.

James M. Hesselgesser, '49, of Amherst, PA died July 19, 2007. He was a chemical engineer and later involved in the sales of medical equipment. Among his inventions, he designed and developed the Bogard Safety Cabinet used in hospital and animal research. James is survived by his wife Margeret Steel Hesselgesser.

Richard O. Dunn, '50, of San Antonio, TX died July 9, 2007. He served in the US Army in Korea and Japan. He is survived by his wife, Betsy J. Dunn, his wife of 60 years.

Horne Giefflab Sabatino, '50, of Monroe, CT died May 15, 2007. She had been an accounting manager for Union Carbide in Oak Ridge, TN. She is survived by Angelo V. Sabatino, her husband of almost 53 years.

Caterina Rovezzow, '50, of Berea, KY died May 21, 2007. She had worked for the veterans' hospitals in Washington, D.C. and in New Jersey.
Laura Willoree Young Hankenship, '51, of Asheville, NC died March 22, 2007. She was a retired school teacher. She is survived by William K. Hankenship, Sr., her husband.

Jeanette Carr, '51, of Cincinnati, OH died April 13, 2007. She was a dedicated member and active volunteer of her church. She is survived by Joanne Carr DeVitt, '54, her sister.

Dr. David Bunbury, '52, of Antigonish, Nova Scotia died February 2005. He had a long and distinguished career teaching chemistry at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Frances McClunglin Gabbert, Cx '52, of St. Albans, VT died April 30, 2007. She was a retired school teacher. Frances is survived by Carl G. Gabbert, her husband.

Mildred G Murin of Harlingen, TX died June 16, 2007. She was a registered nurse. Mildred is survived by Ieland M. “Pappy” Murin, '53, her husband of 51 years.

William Ralph Rose, '53, of Warren ton, VA died May 3, 2007. He retired from the Navy as a captain. He is survived by Marita Rose, his wife.

Dr. Charles W. Dill, '54, of Bryan, TX died April 11, 2007. He was a retired professor and his research on proteins and human milk received worldwide recognition. He is survived by Shirley Lee Roberts Dill, his wife of 52 years.

Robert Lee Walters, Sr., '54, of Somerset, Ky died June 20, 2007. He was a retired Blue Grass Blue Shield of Kentucky representative. He is survived by Bonnie Sue Hecks Walters, '68, his wife of 53 years.

Elizabeth “Lib” Hale DuVall, '55, of Marshall, NC died July 15, 2007. As a registered nurse she had worked in the operating room and in various doctors' offices, was a school nurse, and retired from the Madison County Health Department in 1999. Lib and her husband have devoted their careers to helping people. She is survived by T. Wiley DuVall, '53, her husband.

Joe C. Morris, Cx '55, of Greeneville, TN died May 20, 2005. He was a widely known businessman, a tool and die maker, and mechanical engineer. Joe is survived by Christine Morris, his wife.

Jay Perry of Creston, IA died April 2006. He is survived by Beth Mayer Perry, '55, his wife of 49 years.

Marion Drew Leach, '57, of Silver Spring, MD died April 5, 2007. She was executive director of the Cathedral Choral Society from 1976-96. Marion is survived by William M. Leach, '56, her husband of 46 years.

Bernard S. Montgomery, '57, of Seitz, Ky died April 21, 2006. He is survived by his six children.

James Dean Murphy, Sr., Cx '57, of Centre, AL died February 26, 2007. He was a veteran of the Korean War. He is survived by Bonnie Rice Murphy, his wife.

Betty Christine Johnston, '58, of Gray, NC died in 2002.

1960s

John Freddy Hall, H '61, of Winchester, Ky died April 30, 2007. He was chief financial officer at Delta Natural Gas where he had been employed for 26 years. John served in the Navy and had two tours of duty in Vietnam. He is survived by Sharon Hallock Hall, his wife.

Delmar Ward, '61, of Fayetteville, NC died April 5, 2007. He was retired as the senior process engineer of Borden Chemical P & IP's eastern division. Delmar is survived by Barbara Anne McGoury, Cx '63, his wife of 42 years.


Emma Jane Hensley, '63, of Fulks Ran, VA died March 1, 2007. She was a retired school teacher. Emma Jane is survived by Philip Hensley and Gary Hensley, his brothers.


Bobby Hugh Robinson, '64, of Locust Grove, VA died June 7, 2007. He was retired from 30 years distinguished service at USDA as administrator of Cooperative State Research and Extension Service and associate administrator of the Economic Research Service, and former head of Agricultural Economics Department at Germion University. He is survived by Barbara Robinson, his wife.

Dr. Larry W. Hulvey, '65, of Jesup, GA died April 12, 2007. He was a retired school psychologist. Larry is survived by Judy Hensley Hulvey, '66, his wife of 40 years.

1970s

1st. Colonel Kenneth Parsons (Ret.), '70, of Berea, KY died June 30, 2007. After retirement from the military Ken was an instructor for the Junior ROTC program in Scott County, KY. Later he started the Junior ROTC program in Madison Southern High School in Berea, KY and taught military studies. Ken is survived by Linda Van Wilde Parsons, Cx '73, his wife.

Dr. James “Jim” Richards, '70, of Freeville, NY died April 24, 2007. He was director of the Feline Health Center at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, one of the top feline experts in the U.S., and author of the ASPCA Complete Guide to Cats. He is survived by Anita Fox Richards, his wife, and two children, Kelly and Michael.

Hennis Doyle Herrin, Cx '74, of Lake City, TN died May 30, 2007. He enjoyed writing and publishing books. He is survived by Edith Herrin, his mother.

Karl Shultz of Williamsburg, VA died March 26, 2007. He is survived by Carol R. Gailey, '74, his wife.

Sharon Barnett Krajnak, '75, of Murfreesboro, TN died July 4, 2007. She was a retired manager of Nurse and Employee Education and Development with the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (Veterans Administration Hospital). Sharon is survived by Michael A. Krajnak, '72, her husband.

Sandra Lynn Aston Williams, '79, of Hopkinsville, KY died April 9, 2007. She was retired from the Federal Medical Center in Lexington, KY. She is survived by Stanley Durnell Williams, her husband of 18 years.

1980s

The 17-year-old son of Jerome Higginbotham, '83, and Rebecca Wolocheck, '84, Jesse Caldwell Higginbotham, died April 19, 2007 of injuries sustained in an auto accident. The Jesse Higginbotham Technology Trust, a non-profit corporation, has been established to continue his legacy of giving.

1990s

Leona Bowling Gary, '97, of Burkesville, KY died April 5, 2007. She was an education major and Country Dancer at Berea College. She is survived by Chris Gary, her husband.

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Gene Parr, ’49, and Joan Parr, ’48

Return the Gift of a Lifetime

A
lumni Gene and Joan Parr display an undeniable enthusiasm when discussing Berea. Memories of the campus in the 1940s abound, but the couple focuses most on Berea’s influence in creating purposeful lives.

Reflecting on her husband’s 35-year practice as a successful orthopedic surgeon and her role in managing their family of five, Joan says, “Berea offers a lifestyle that makes a difference. It motivates you to want to do something in life that’s bigger than you. It satisfies a yearning to be all God wants you to be.”

Gene entered medical school after three years at Berea and quickly realized an enormous financial burden as a medical student. Remembering how the College had assisted him in the past, Gene asked Berea’s then-President Francis Hutchins for a lifeline. Hutchins answered the call, discovering a foundation that helped Gene through four years of medical school. Gene says, “Whenever I asked for help, I received it. Berea College was my great facilitator, contributing so much to my subsequent years.”

Gene and Joan began supporting Berea in 1948 with a $1 gift, and over the years they have given generously to the College, both financially and through service. Recently the Parrs established the Francis and Louise Hutchins Scholarship Fund, which assists Bereans facing the financial challenges of medical school. Gene served on Berea’s Board of Trustees for six years, and Joan worked as a class chairperson on the Alumni Council. Just as the College motivated Gene and Joan to live their dreams, the Parrs’ support helps today’s Berea students to live theirs.

For nearly 60 years, Gene and Joan have shared their lives and resources with their alma mater, reflecting the optimism Berea instills in its alumni. In Gene’s words, “We have a unity of mind and attitude toward Berea, for the College has done so much for both of us.”
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