

BEREA

COLLEGE MAGAZINE WINTER 2008

ONE Blood
ALL Peoples





Inside this issue

WINTER 2008 : Volume 78 Number 3 : BEREА COLLEGE MAGAZINE : www.berea.edu



COVER STORY

16

She Made a Difference in the World

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 Editor's Note
- 5 Around Campus
- 11 Building Berea
- 12 News from Faculty, Staff, & Trustees
- 35 Alumni Connections
- 36 Homecoming
- 39 About Berea People
- 41 Passages

Contributing Writers:

Leah Cushman, '08, Carol Davey, '10, Jenipher Dennis, '11, Erin Hay, '11, Amanda Hensley, '10, Zack Kocher, '08, Michael Loruss, '10, Deb McIntyre, '10

Front Cover: Alice Abramson, '50; photo by Howard Korn
Back Cover: photos by Loretta Reynolds
Inside Front: photo by O'Neil Arnold, '85

FEATURES

- 13 Ask. Challenge. Question.
- 14 The Face of God
- 16 She Made the World a Better Place
- 19 Breaking through the Stained-Glass Ceiling
- 22 What Does It Mean to Say that Berea Is a "Christian College?"
- 25 Reading the Book of Nature
- 26 Theology, Ecology, and Plain Living
- 27 When Prayer Becomes Activism
- 28 If These Walls Could Talk
- 30 She Followed Heavenly Strains of Music
- 32 Pastoral Counseling and the Language of Dreams



BEREA COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Normandi Ellis, **Editor**

William A. Laramée, **Vice President,
Alumni and College Relations**

Timothy W. Jordan, '76, **Director, Public Relations**

Mae Suramek, '95, **Director, Alumni Relations**

Correspondence and Reprints

If you have comments, questions, or suggestions for the *Berea College Magazine*, or would like information about reprinting any article appearing in the magazine, please contact:

Normandi Ellis
Editor, *Berea College Magazine*
Berea College
CPO 2142
Berea, KY 40404
or email normandi_ellis@bereda.edu

Berea College Magazine (ISSN 1539-7394) is published quarterly for Berea College alumni and friends by the Berea College Public Relations Department.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to the Berea College Office of Alumni Relations, CPO 2203, Berea, KY 40404.

Berea College is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization under federal guidelines.



AT YOUR
SERVICE

Web: www.berea.edu

Email: mae_suramek@bereda.edu

Mail: CPO 2203
Berea, KY 40404

Phone: 859.985.3104
Toll free: 1.866.804.0591

Fax: 859.985.3178

Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays.

—Søren Kierkegaard

This year's midyear graduation began with President Larry Shinn encouraging the 42 graduating seniors to continue thinking sustainably because, as he said, "preserving God's creation is an act of love."

The closing parenthesis for the ceremony that honored nuclear physicist Dr. Joseph H. Hamilton was a poetic benediction read by political science professor Michael Berheide. Michael Corrigan's *Prayer of Thanks* began: "Thank you for the universe, the world, / For earth and water, fire and fresh air..." A lyric list of the beauty and mystery found in heaven and on earth followed, ending with this couplet: "I might have wanted something else, of course, / But tell me how I could have asked for this?"

The poem reminded me of the fact that God is all around us – in the beauty of creation and in the faces of family, friends, and strangers. I am honored to offer this issue of the magazine focusing on the avenues of religious expression found at work on campus – even in the campus architecture (p. 28). Something special happens in sacred spaces. The chin lifts and one gazes up. Such was my experience while traveling in Egypt recently. Whether I stood in Old Cairo inside Ben Ezra synagogue where thousands of sacred texts were discovered; or at Saint George's Coptic Christian church where the Holy Family rested in Egypt; or inside Al-Rafa'i mosque whose vast domes resonate with praise; or at the foot of the Giza pyramids standing beneath a canopy of stars, my every breath contained a prayer of thanks.

Travel not only broadens us to other cultures and attitudes, but it strengthens our appreciation for things back home. I returned from my travels grateful and empowered by the generosity of spirit I find here in Berea. We are a unique campus, as comely as the universe that was created by the Divine Hand so many eons ago.

It seems right for this College, founded 150 years ago by Reverend John G. Fee to address the social and religious issues of his time, to bring religion and social issues to the forefront of the conversation in this magazine. President Shinn offers us a look into a question he is often asked: What does it mean to say that Berea is a Christian College? (p. 22).

The Divine Hand is seen at work in the lives of Berea's faculty members through the paintings of Neil DiTeresa (p. 14) and the social activism of Michelle Tooley (p. 27); through the environmental endeavors of students like Micah Johnson (p. 25); and through our graduates who work in many spiritual traditions. They include the Reverends Lisa Wilson Webb, Debbie Wallace-Padgett, and Julie Love Hager (p. 19); diversity director Mahjabeen Rafiuddin (p. 13); social activist Alice Abramson (p. 16); ethnomusicologist Krista Bowker (p. 30); pastoral counselor G. Keith Parker (p. 32); and sustainability coordinator Tammy Clemons (p. 26).

These and so many other Bereans actively work to enrich the spiritual life on campus, in their communities, and throughout the world. I thank each of those who have shared a life story with us, and I thank you, dear readers, for all you do in your lives to embody the truth of our founding principal: "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth."



Normandi Ellis

Around Campus

Boone Tavern Going Green

The historic Boone Tavern is going green and has temporarily closed January 1, 2008 for a \$9.6 million renovation that will make it the first LEED-certified hotel in Kentucky. It will reopen on a temporarily reduced scale in May. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification is provided by the U.S. Green Building Council and is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings.

The renovation will revive the ecological integrity of many features original to the building's design such as: open-air porches on two levels; restoration of skylights in the original dining room; ventilating roof windows; and deciduous and native shade trees. A two-story portico on the east façade will offer a covered entrance for guests near the parking lot with easy access and handicap accessibility. Additional meeting spaces and a half-dozen

new guest rooms will be added. Modern technologies, such as flat screen televisions and a wireless network, will provide amenities for today's traveling public. The entire renovation will be completed in time for Boone Tavern's centennial celebration in early 2009.

Boone Tavern has been in continuous operation since 1909, when it was opened as a guesthouse for the College's visitors. It will continue to be staffed by students and furnished with items from Berea College Crafts.



Virté Fogarty, '08

An upgrade to Boone Tavern is underway. The restaurant will reopen in May.

In College Rankings, Berea Remains Among the Best

A recent *U.S. News and World Report* reflects a national change in college categories that has affected all collegiate rankings. Berea moved from classification as a comprehensive college to a liberal arts college.

"Nothing has changed at Berea College," assures President Larry Shinn. "We still deliver a top-notch, rigorous academic program to students, primarily from Appalachia, who have great academic potential, but limited financial resources. Berea's mission has not changed. Rather, what has changed is the way *U.S. News* categorizes colleges and universities."

In this new national category, with literally hundreds more schools competing for rankings, Berea College fared very well, sharing a five-way tie with other notable schools including Austin College (TX), Birmingham-Southern College (AL), Spelman College (GA), and St. John's University (MN).

This year *U.S. News and World Report* also cited Berea College for providing outstanding service learning and internships and ranked it # 1 in the nation among liberal arts colleges for students graduating with the least amount of debt. Princeton Review's new edition of *The Best 366 Colleges* featured Berea in its laudatory lists of "Best Southeastern Colleges" and "Colleges with a Conscience." *USA Today* reported that the National Study of Student Engagement recognized Berea College for its convocation program, which provides students with culturally enriching lectures, concerts, and other performances.



Celeste Pressley, '08

Bereans Emphathize with Myanmar Struggles

Buddhist monks and civilians in Myanmar, the former Burma, have opposed its government-enforced civilian relocation, forced labor (including child labor), and other human rights abuses. Berea students linked with them in solidarity, signing letters of petition against the bloodshed in Rangoon, where protesters at a high school were killed. Members of the Buddhist Student Association and others led a prayer and meditation in the All Peoples Prayer Chapel on campus, while other community members lit candles in Danforth Chapel and prayed for peace.

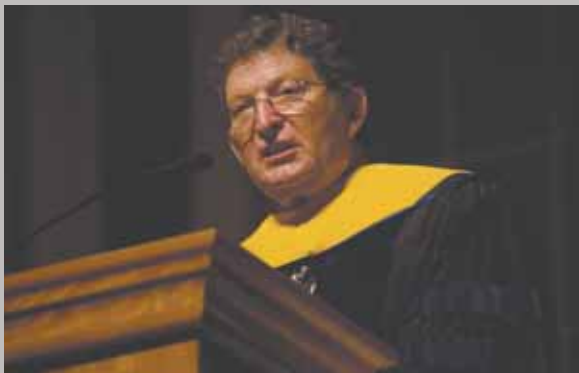
To raise awareness of the human rights abuses caused by economic policies, the Campus Christian Center offered a luncheon forum to discuss issues of social justice with three students from Myanmar who

spoke out about living conditions there.



Celeste Pressley, '08

Members of the Buddhist Student Association, joined by campus and community members, held a peace vigil in solidarity with peace activists in Myanmar.



Dr. Joseph H. Hamilton

Midyear Speaker Urges Graduates to Think Critically

A small, but distinguished group of midyear graduates received diplomas on December 9th in Phelps Stokes Chapel. LaKeya Chase, '08, gave the invocation. "It feels great graduating midyear. The intimate service really allows friends and family to get the 'up close and personal' feel on such a special occasion," she said.

Prior to graduation ceremonies, President Larry Shinn presented an honorary doctor of science degree to commencement speaker, Dr. Joseph H. Hamilton, a distinguished nuclear physicist and Vanderbilt University professor since 1959. He urged the graduates to use their critical thinking to make good choices, to seek solutions to world problems, and to be determined and persistent in pursuing them. Hamilton has received national honors for his research, lectured all over the world, and his work has been published more than 500 times in nuclear physics publications. He is the co-author of eight research books, an undergraduate textbook, and two books for middle- and high-school students.

Berea College Honors the Rogers Family Contributions

During the Founders' Day convocation, President Shinn bestowed upon the descendants of Rev. John A.R. Rogers and his wife, Elizabeth, the John G. Fee Award. The award annually recognizes those educators who greatly served their community during its infancy and whose lives reflect the ideals of Berea founder Rev. John G. Fee. The Founders' Day program included remarks by the couple's great-grandsons, Bryant Rogers and Bennett Ross Taylor.

After graduating from Oberlin College and Seminary, Rev. Rogers and his wife settled in Berea in 1858. Having taught and ministered in several states, he came to Berea at the invitation of Fee. Elizabeth Embree Rogers had also attended Oberlin College. Their first job was to teach students regardless of race or gender in Berea's one-room school.

In 1859, Rogers, Fee, and other community leaders wrote Berea's first Constitution. Later that year, the threat of violence forced them out of Berea. When the Civil War ended, the Rogers family and the other founders returned to Berea to open the Berea Literary Institute, the forerunner of Berea College. The couple remained instrumental in College affairs for more than 60 years.



Members of the Rogers family attended Founders' Day.



Carl Thomas

Identity and Diversity in Appalachia

More than 800 people attended a college-wide symposium about identity and diversity in Appalachia. Speakers from Berea campus included associate director of admissions Carl Thomas, '78, Dr. William H. Turner, the national Endowment for the Humanities Chair in Appalachian Studies, Dr. Chad Berry, director of the Appalachian Center, and Patty Tarquino, '04, a community organizer in the coalfields of Eastern Kentucky who immigrated to the United States from Columbia in 1988. Other featured speakers included Deborah R. Weiner, author of *Coalfield Jews: An Appalachian History*, and Summar West, of Maryville College. In lectures, panels, and more than 40 break-out discussion groups, insights were gleaned into the rich diversity of Appalachia seen in culture, race, sexual orientation, and interfaith groups.



Leah Cushman, '08

Rev. Gloria Johnson as Sister Margaret

In Amen Corner Spiritual Relationships Conflict with Daily Actions

"You got to do what's right," Sister Margaret, a Pentecostal minister, admonished her son, David, in the fall production of James Baldwin's *The Amen Corner*. Campus Chaplain Gloria Johnson took the part of Sister Margaret, a minister who struggles with her family, her faith, and her congregation. Amanda Lucas, '09, played the teenage son raised with the misconception that his father (Keith Bullock) had abandoned the family. As the plot turns, David uncovers the truth about his father, and Sister Margaret must confront the fact that her life has been based on deception.

Rev. Johnson, cast as the minister and lying mother, feels that it is vital for Christians to be motivated, not by the opinions of others, but by a personal relationship with God. "A clear perception of who God is and a knowledge of Him shapes all aspects of life and existence, thought, and integrity. It's a daily thing, not just a religious thing." Trying to separate religion from everyday life, she observes, really is not possible.

The play was directed by assistant professor Rodney Clark with musical direction by associate professor Kathy Bullock.

Berea College Continues to Make National Sustainability News

Berea College's sustainability initiatives have been featured in a number of recent national publications. The *Sierra Club* Magazine ranked Berea in a national ranking of the Top 10 "Green Schools" in the country, ahead of Pennsylvania State, Tufts, and Carnegie Mellon. The magazine cited the Ecovillage student family experience, the sustainability of its dining facility, the use of local and campus-raised foods on menus, and our sustainable building and renovation practices.

Current Magazine, published by *Newsweek* "for college students by college students," rated Berea's Ecovillage as the "Most Conscious Crib." News about Berea's sustainability efforts also appeared in *KIWI Magazine's* Green College Report and in the Sustainable Endowment Institute's annual Campus Sustainability Report Card.

President Larry Shinn said that while national recognition in sustainability efforts is good, "we can hardly rest on our laurels. Sustainability is a strength of the College and a natural extension of Berea's commitment to 'plain-living,' and yet much remains to be done in this area." Thus he announced that the Strategic Planning Committee and Executive Council agreed to create an ad hoc Subcommittee on Sustainability II (SOS-II) to draft a campus-wide sustainability strategic plan that will also include implementation action items for the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment.



Gifts for Service Men and Women

Several College staff, students, and community members made the holiday season and past year a little brighter for active duty military personnel from central Kentucky. Contributions included DVDs, batteries, playing cards, hand-held games, shaving cream, nonperishable snacks, hard candy, and complimentary soaps, lotions, shampoos, or toiletries provided by hotels. Members of the Lady Mountaineers' basketball team also "adopted" specific soldiers.

The ongoing effort began in Garrard County a year ago, and is spearheaded at the College by academic services staff member Rita Fox. Cards, letters, and packages will continue to be sent to soldiers in 2008.



Lucy Bagley, '10

The Lady Mountaineers team members prepared holiday gifts.



Lucy Begley, '10

Bereans Hold Vigil for “Jena 6”

Gathered around the candlelit motto, “God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth,” dozens of Bereans held a vigil to bring attention to “Jena 6,” a civil rights issue that some consider an egregious example of racial disparity in the criminal justice system. The vigil came in response to legal proceedings following the arrests of six black defendants who allegedly beat a white student in Jena, Louisiana, in December 2006. That incident followed months of racial tensions initially sparked when white teens hung nooses from an oak tree the day after black students violated an “unofficial rule” that allowed only whites to sit in that area.

“Tonight is not only about a remembrance of the young souls that have faced this terrible injustice,” said J. Anthony Holbert, '09, of Brighton, Alabama. “It is also a wake-up call to return to the days of student activism.”



Michelle Towles, '10

Students toured the model sustainable building in the Ecovillage.

Natural Building Shelter Dedicated in Ecovillage

In October, Richard Olson, director of the Sustainability and Environmental Studies (SENS) program, led the dedication of the student-designed and student-built Natural Building Shelter. “It’s a great example of experiential learning, not just for the students who built it, but for everyone who worked on it,” he said.

The shelter uses solar energy for heating and generating electricity and demonstrates a variety of natural building methods including cob, cordwood, and earthen plasters. Construction was spearheaded by student SENS House director, Phil Hawn, '08, who urged the community at large to work toward more sustainable living. Jessa Turner, '07, a major contributor of labor and design to the project, said the conclusion of her efforts were “awesome to see.” Diane Wright, one of two major contributors to the project, called the final product “a beautiful place,” saying she hopes to see many more buildings like it in the future.

Sustainability Mini-Grants Support Technology and Agriculture Projects

Technology arts professor Gary Mahoney, '82, and agriculture and natural resources associate professor Sean Clark have received Ecological Sustainability Education (ESE) mini-grants for research projects.

Mahoney obtained a federal license to produce ethanol fuel in 2006. Students in his natural science class teamed with students in a power technology course taught by professor Don Hudson, '65. Using a distillation device, students produced ethanol fuel that was tested in modified single-cylinder engines designed by students for power and efficiency. With the equipment purchased through the mini-grant, students may now calculate their distillation process, measure the efficiency of the fermentation and distillation, and analyze the protein and other nutrients that remain in the mash. In addition, they will work with alternative grains and experiment with various heat sources.

Clark’s College Farm bicycle pilot project will evaluate the financial benefits of cutting gasoline consumption by using bicycles as primary modes of student transportation to and from the College Farm. Currently, two trucks and three vans transport the 45 student workers to Hunt Acres Farm at least four times per day—a total of 20 daily round trips. Six students will volunteer to bike to and from the farm and collect data for one academic year. The Department will provide the students with bicycles as long as they use them for work transportation at least 50 percent of the time. Nathan Hall, '10, who also coordinates the Berea Bikes program, has been instrumental in implementing the program.

Courses Selected for Project Pericles

Four courses designed by Berea College faculty are being funded by Project Pericles, a national program that offers civic engagement grants for courses evaluated for creativity, connection to civic responsibility, academic rigor, and applicability to future years and other campuses.

The courses being offered during the spring 2008 term include Peggy Rivage-Seul and Chad Berry's "Politics of Food," Dave Porter's "Questioning of Authority," and Rebecca Bates' "Seminar in Modern European History – Social Responses to Poverty."

This fall, students in "Political Communication," taught by Billy Wooten, '98, partnered with the League of Women Voters on two community forums that focused on U.S. immigration, conducted voter registration on campus, and provided information about absentee ballots and out-of-state student voter registration.

The grants are funded by The Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation, The Teagle Foundation, and Project Pericles.



Celeste Pressley, '08

Lorena Luna, '10, and Jessica Trout, '08, registered voters.

Students Present Research at the Kentucky Academy of Sciences

Biology, chemistry, physics, and agriculture and natural resources students presented their summer undergraduate research at the 93rd annual meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Sciences held at the University of Louisville this fall.

Awards in oral presentation were given to: Elizabeth Fleming, '09, first place in ecology and environmental sciences; Jessica Price, '09, second place in chemistry; Joshua Sparks, '08, second place in health sciences; and Amanda Hensley, '10, third place in zoology. Poster competition awards went to: David Foster, '08, first place in cellular and molecular biology; Katherine Johnson, '09, first place in zoology; Kayla Meadows, '08, first place in chemistry; and Tsering Dolma, '10, Brea Viragh, '10, Robert Twiggs, '10, Aaron Fidler, '09, Dikshya Bastakoty, '10, and Miluka Gunaratna, '10, first place in the ecology and environmental science poster competition.

Islamic Awareness Week Draws in Student Community



Michelle Towles, '10

Kari McAllister, '09, wearing a hijab.

To fight stereotypes about Islam, the Muslim Student Association (MSA), the Campus Christian Center, the Center for International Education, and the student-led Opening Blind Eyes project brought Islamic Awareness Week

to campus. The week included documentaries, faculty presentations, student-written theatrical performances, and a visit to a nearby mosque. More than 100 traditional head scarves, called *hijabs*, were provided for women to wear in a show of support; several men wore armbands.

Associate professor Jose Pimienta-Bey led discussions on the impact Islam has had on the educational system and MSA president Zubair Ahmad, '10, of Afghanistan, discussed *zakat* and *sadaqa* (two forms of Muslim charity), and *riba*, a system of free transactions and banking that uses verses from the Quran and the Bible. Bolotbek Esenov, '08, of Kyrgyzstan, offered an evening of his short dramatic expressions written to help the community understand the meaning of family and Islamic teachings.

Speech and Debate Team Gets Heard

Berea's speech and debate team fared well at the Owensboro College Forensics Invitation this fall. Kate Ruddle, '10, and Ken Johnson, '09, were debate champions, and Eric Moore, '11, garnered first place novice speaker. Other first or second place finalists included Matthew Frederick, '09, first place poetry and second place programmed oral interpretation; Stephanie Radford, '10, second place poetry and pentathlon; and Lacey Gresham, '11, second place dramatic interpretation. The forensics team is directed by assistant professor Billy Wooten, '98.

Heard Around Campus

"It's really about trying to figure out how we in our own way, in our own religious or our own spiritual traditions, become peaceful within, because then you're able to listen without fear to people who disagree with you or who are different from you."

—Berea College President Larry Shinn
Convocation, September 2007

"To build community you have to offer peace to those who won't offer it to you."

—bell hooks, distinguished writer in residence
Convocation, September 2007

"How you view the past depends on your hope for the future."

—Story Musgrave, astronaut and poet
Convocation, September 2007

"Men have got to take an active role against gender oppression."

—Kevin Powell, author and MTV Reel World cast member
Tukule, Tusome *"Politics of Hip Hop,"* October 2007

"Appalachia is a big concept. Appalachia is a big region, and it has plenty of room for many different people."

—Chad Berry, Appalachian Center director
Identity and Diversity in Appalachia:
A College-Wide Symposium, November 2007

"A Hindu woman lives in two worlds—auspicious like the flute and powerful like the hammer."

—Dr. Eric Rothgery, Department of Religious Studies, Eckerd College
Peanut Butter and Gender, *"The Goddess Visits Tampa: Hindu Women's Divine Possession Experiences,"* November 2007

"Obstacles are the nature of entrepreneurship. You have to work with the system and learn the rules. You may need to change your focus, but don't let the system force you to change your goals."

—Judge Jeff Choate, Foothills Academy
Convocation, *Changing Jobs and Changing Lives*, November 2007

"Social entrepreneurship means being willing to serve—as willing to take orders as to give them. You have to, park your ego at the door and pitch in with a humble attitude."

—Kelly Upchurch, American Health Management
Convocation, *Changing Jobs and Changing Lives*, November 2007

"I have an obligation to represent the trugh, not just the factual truth but also a moral truth. I am a pure native of this place."

—Gurney Norman, author of *Kinfolks*
Appalachian Heritage reading, December 2007



Larry Shinn



bell hooks



Story Musgrave



Kevin Powell



Chad Berry



Jeff Choate

BUILDING BERA—*Extending the Legacy*

Remodeled Middletown Rosenwald School Returns to the Business of Education



President Shinn cut the ribbon along with dignitaries and former Middletown teacher, Dorothy Miller.



The Rucker family provided what may be the original Phelps Stokes bell that was also formerly installed at Middletown.

In 1912, Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., joined Booker T. Washington in a program to improve education for black children in the South. Their collaboration evolved into the Rosenwald Fund which, through matching grants, helped construct more than 5,300 school buildings in Southern and Southwestern states over the next 20 years. One such school was built on former Berea College land.

At one time, Kentucky had 155 Rosenwald Schools located throughout the state. Over time, many of those sites disappeared. That prompted the National Trust for Historic Preservation to include the remaining schools in its list of the 11 most endangered historic places in America in 2002.

That list included Berea's Middletown Consolidated School, which began with a \$1,000 grant from the Rosenwald Foundation and four acres of land donated by the College. After it was erected in 1927 at the cost of \$12,000, the school served black residents living in and near Berea during the segregation era. At the dedication ceremony in December 1927, Berea College President William J. Hutchinson and former College President William Goodell Frost provided remarks.

The school served grades 1-8 and was a large improvement over the one-room schools that black children previously attended in three different districts: Farristown, Middletown, and the town of Berea. After closing in 1963, the school enjoyed a brief life as a community center, then languished for decades on Berea College property adjacent to the educational farm.

In June 2007, after a year-long renovation, the historic building re-opened as the new home of GEAR UP—a federal program managed by Berea College that helps middle and high school students in five regional school systems attend and succeed in college. The school's renovations kept the original design wherever possible, while creating a space that is up-to-date and functional. A

non-functioning privy has been left on the site for historical purposes, and the exterior appears much as it did the day that it was built.

More than 200 people, many of them alumni of Middletown School, attended the dedication. One former teacher, Dorothy Miller, helped cut the dedication ribbon; the Rev. Robert Blythe, cousin of the first principal, Robert Blythe, gave the invocation. Alice Rosenwald, granddaughter of Julius Rosenwald, sent a letter of thanks and a gift to help fund the GEAR UP program.

GEAR UP director Dreama Gentry, '89, says renovating Middletown School for GEAR UP both saves a historically important building and honors the school's primary principles. The building will still be called Middletown School to recognize its history and its place in the Middletown neighborhood. Gentry also stated, "Rosenwald Schools are meant to be centers for the community and will be serving disadvantaged youth."



Dorothy Miller, front row center, is joined by former students of Middletown School.

News from Faculty, Staff, and Trustees

Erika Smith Named Admissions Director

Erika Smith joined Berea College as Admissions Director in January 2008. She has worked as an admissions counselor at Heidelberg College (Ohio) before becoming assistant director, then associate director at Transylvania University (Kentucky). Most recently she was Director of Admissions at the Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky, where she had earned her master's in theology. She also has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Kentucky.



Erika Smith

Karcher Joins Berea in Business Administration

Steven D. Karcher has joined Berea College as Vice President of Business and Administration. Most recently he served as chief financial officer and vice president for finance and administration for the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. Karcher received his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Cornell University, a master's degree in accounting from Binghamton University, and was licensed as a certified public accountant in Vermont.



Steven D. Karcher

He has also served positions as an assistant director of internal audit/adjunct lecturer in accounting at Binghamton University; adjunct lecturer, controller, and associate vice president for finance at Saint Michael's College; and vice president for business affairs and treasurer at Marywood University.

Faculty-Staff Reading Groups Meet with Success

After last year's highly successful faculty and staff reading groups, the Dean of Faculty called for a new round of readings. This fall, faculty members Bob Hoag (philosophy and religion) and Peggy Rivage-Seul (women's studies)



Linda Strong-Leek reads Zora Neal Hurston

convened discussions on Elizabeth Minnich's *Transforming Knowledge*. Minnich participated as a speaker at the sixth annual conference of the Consortium on Innovative Environments in Learning. John Carlevale (classical languages and literature) and Eileen McKiernan-Gonzalez (art) convened discussions of Mark Edmundson's *Why Read?* coupled with *The Epic of Gilgamesh*.

This spring, faculty and staff may join a group that will read Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, convened by Linda Strong-Leek (women's studies) and Gail Wolford (vice president for labor and student life). The second spring book will be Bill McKibben's *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*, convened by Mike Panciera (agriculture and natural resources) and Mark Roselli (economics and business).

Bill McKibben will be a convocation speaker in mid-April.

Cook Heads Up Conference Services

Roger Cook recently joined Berea College as Coordinator of Conference Services. Cook will become the College liaison for groups of visitors whose workshops, events, and symposia will be hosted at Berea College. He sees his job as stream-lining previous services as well as developing new marketing strategies for those who may have an interest in holding their event on Berea's campus. A native of Missouri, Cook's career spans business marketing, sales, and hospitality services for the corporate, nonprofit, and government sectors.



Roger Cook



Mahjabeen Rafiuddin leads roundtable discussions on diversity and change at the University of Kentucky.

Celeste Pressley '08

Ask. Challenge. Question.

By Liz Mandrell

Ever since Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, '97, graduated from Berea College, she has been looking for opportunities to shake things up. Today this active, free-spirited woman looks out over the University of Kentucky campus from her fifth floor office in the Multi-Cultural Student Affairs offices of the Patterson Office Tower. She is always ready for the next challenge.

As University of Kentucky's Director of Student Diversity Engagement, Mahjabeen recently launched three radical campus initiatives that promote debate and scholarship around the topics of race, ethnicity, and diversity. She also developed an Inter-Greek Relations proposal that will bring fraternity and sorority leaders together for six roundtable discussions to practice better communication and cooperation.

By creating opportunities for students who never sit across the table from one another to share their stories in a safe environment, she hopes to break down walls that often separate students from

those with different religions and cultural backgrounds.

"We all carry our cultural biases. We want to label someone and put them in a box. But then we start a conversation with that person and everything changes."

As a Southeast-Asian Muslim woman, Mahjabeen doesn't fit neatly into what seems to be the traditional paradigm of minority. "There are so many things besides black and white that define diversity: politics, gender, geography, sexual orientation. It's not just one issue."

Born in Bangladesh, Mahjabeen moved to the United States in 1989 with her family when her mother received a Fulbright scholarship. At 16, Mahjabeen enrolled at Berea College to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Student leaders asked her to join their organizations. Even though she was a Muslim woman attending a Christian college, Mahjabeen felt the kind of values Berea promoted weren't doctrine-based, but concentrated more on service and social activism.

"At Berea, the doctrine wasn't exclusively Christian or Muslim or anything else. It was about what you were doing to change the world," she says.

Berea's unique balance of tradition and progressive thinking impressed and influenced Mahjabeen.

"Berea shaped my world view with its commitment to service and genuinely defined what multiculturalism looks like," says Mahjabeen. "I came out of Berea with an invaluable set of skills beyond my degree."

Today, when she asks UK students from different backgrounds to communicate with each other, she remembers Gus Gerassimides, Berea's assistant vice president for Student Life, telling her "It wouldn't be a college experience if you didn't have to be confronted by people with differences."

Mahjabeen, a practicing Muslim, cites her religion as a source of peace and direction for her. She says that gazing at a wall of photos, pictures of children who she's worked with, always reminds her "This work is God's work."

The Face of GOD

By Danielle Holleran, '09



Tyler Castells, '08

"Imago Dei" by Neil di Teresa
(below)



The presence of the divine image in art appears around the world and in all religions. In their extravagantly decorated temples, the Hindu placed multi-limbed gods. On tomb walls, ancient Egyptians depicted divine beings with both human and animal heads. The ancient Greeks portrayed their gods in perfected human form. The monotheistic Hebrews, however, prohibited the worship of images. From the Hebrew God of Abraham, came the three most prominent religions of today: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Islam still maintains the prohibition of any graven image and any image of humans at all in religious art.

In early Christian art, images of God did not appear. In the early Byzantine era the *Dextera Domini*, the hand of God, reached down from heaven. Portraits of the Son of God, Jesus, depicted him as beardless and Semitic. Only later



"How Can I Keep From Singing?"



did artists develop the long-haired, bearded face of Jesus that many recognize.

The Renaissance image of God the Father as a bearded old man began in the seventh century C.E., merging with the head of the Roman pantheon, Olympian Jove. In the Renaissance painting "Creation of Adam," Michelangelo portrayed God the Father on the Sistine Chapel reaching out to touch the finger of the newly created Adam. His profile shows a very Italian nose, and a wind blows his silvery grey hair and curling beard.

This well-known image of God was used by art professor Neil DiTeresa in his painting "Imago Dei" (Image of God). Here, Michelangelo's God appears in brilliant colors bursting forth from behind broken glass, because Neil felt there was no other way to display God accurately but through the image of light. "The broken glass with the Renaissance image of God the Father," says Neil, "was made to represent an old way of thinking that is disappearing and letting the light and color shine through."

Neil has also brought new light to his triptych paintings of the Nativity, which has been completed, and of the Crucifixion, a work-in-progress. These Biblical narratives are the most recognizable of all New Testament stories. With these new portrayals of the Divine, Neil has brought religious art out of the Renaissance ideal and into our modern era. Following the lead of Renaissance masters, he used real people from his own time to depict the characters in the story. Neil's paintings, however, have many more figures. He puts the focus on these other people rather than solely on Christ. This is not meant to de-emphasize the importance of Jesus, but rather to allow the audience to find themselves in the painting with Christ, "to see and identify with the people who are there," he says.

In the craggy trees of Indian Fort on the East Pinnacle here in the Berea mountains, a purple sky holds such dark images as predatory birds and an atomic bomb blast. The image of Earth seen from space appears with a shadow cast across it. This is Neil DiTeresa's landscape of the Crucifixion.

Close to the viewers he places the cross on which hangs the Christ figure facing away from viewers. This unique arrangement creates a focus on the faces of the crowd, as Neil helps the viewers place themselves there by painting people of all ages, races, and gender – 55 figures in all. He plans to include in the crowd observing the Crucifixion such witnesses as Anne Frank, the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, Gandhi, and Adolf Hitler. There, too, is the face of a Holocaust survivor who now lives in Lexington and a soldier who stands with his hand over his heart at the memorial for a friend who was killed in Iraq. As the old masters often did, Neil has his family and himself off to the side of the scene. His dog, Gretel, is next to him.

"By painting in this way, there is clear relevance to our own time, not just a historical study, and people today can more easily discover themselves in it. To me, this is a spiritual gift given and for me the beginning of a whole series of religious paintings," says Neil.

Somewhere in Israel five dozen trees stretch toward a sky that has too often thundered with rockets and suicide bombs employed in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The trees were planted to honor Alice Abramson, '50, a soft-spoken octogenarian who fully embodies Berea's motto, "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth."

She's never seen the trees planted in a Jewish tradition to "tame the desert," and doesn't know exactly where they are located. She doesn't even know what fruit they bear, but that does not diminish the importance of why they were planted: to honor her for helping the victims of suicide bombers during the Second Intifada, the second major wave of violence between Palestinians and Israelis since 1967.

In spring 2002, a rash of Palestinian suicide bombs ripped through Israel and left more than 160 Israeli civilians dead in the aftermath. Israel's subsequent counter-attack and reoccupation of disputed lands killed nearly 500 Palestinians. Afterwards, Alice's synagogue worked closely with

Operation Embrace, a relief effort in which others "adopted" families who were victims of the bombings.

"We sent them money, and we sent them gifts and letters," says Alice during a recent phone interview from her home in Bethesda, Maryland. "Even though I couldn't save the world, I could make a tremendous difference in the lives of these four families." She speaks with a soft voice that belies a quiet intensity.

Her desire to help victims began more than a half century earlier when, as a Berea College student, she fought racial inequities by challenging the Day Law, passed by the Kentucky legislature in 1904. The legislation that prohibited interracial education in the Commonwealth was "unjust and inappropriate," she says.

Alice came to Berea four years before the Day Law was amended in 1950 to allow interracial education. A native of Brooklyn, Alice had witnessed little to no discrimination against blacks. "Having grown up in New York, the idea of discrimination against Negroes just wasn't a part of my life," says Alice, a second



Abramson when she was Director of the Children's Guild in New York from 1954-58.

generation Jewish immigrant whose parents fled Russia during the final throes of World War I. Instead, she experienced a form of anti-Semitism which made clear that Jews were not allowed to live in certain places or attend certain schools.

She Made the World

By Jay Buckner

Thus, unexpectedly, Alice did not concentrate her efforts on fighting anti-Semitism while at Berea. “I didn’t think in terms of righting that wrong,” she says. “For some reason I felt there were other people to do that.”

A philosophy major, Alice found little time for extracurricular activities between managing the student dining room and co-chairing the Citizens’ Committee, a group of students and faculty members who sought to challenge the Day Law. “I really wanted to be a part of Berea Players theatre group, but I wasn’t good enough,” laughs Alice. “I was really focused on the Day Law, and we had a lot of work to do,” she says with a more serious tone.

Formed in 1947, the committee set forth its primary objectives, first and foremost of which was the repeal of the Day Law. Additionally, committee members sought to improve race relations by urging the College to open its ranks to any qualified person, regardless of race. At that time there were no black professors teaching at Berea.

Much of the work of the Citizens’ Committee was aimed at the College’s

administration. Although Berea initially challenged the Day Law all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court—and lost—some felt that the College had since softened its stance and was not assertive enough in calling for “enabling legislation” that would no longer prohibit interracial education at institutions that chose to do so.

“I was a pretty assertive student now that I think about it,” chuckles Alice while recalling her speaking to then-President Francis Hutchins more than half a century ago. “I went to see him to ask him if Berea couldn’t take more of an assertive role because other colleges were.”

Alice graduated during the midterm of 1950 and was not enrolled at Berea during that historic fall semester when Elizabeth Ballard, Cx’59, and William Ballew, ’59, stepped on campus and became the first black students at Berea in nearly half a century. Nonetheless, what Alice never witnessed was still a result of what she considers to be one of her life’s greatest achievements. “I felt like a pioneer at that time,” she says, remembering her leadership of the Citizens’ Committee.

Her restorative work in social advocacy almost never happened. Alice was initially denied admittance to Berea because the college had already met its limits for out-of-territory admissions. So what did Alice do? “I wrote them back,” she says matter-of-factly. “Not taking no for an answer became a mantra for me.”

Her next correspondence from Berea was an acceptance letter.

Sixty-one years after a long train ride to Berea, Alice remembers her first whiff of honeysuckle. “My life had been in the tenements—a cement city—and I had never smelled honeysuckle. I can still remember the excitement that I felt just from that unfamiliar, yet welcoming smell,” says Alice.

a Better Place



She felt no conflict about attending a Christian-based institution where only two other Jewish students were enrolled. To her, Berea was a labor college. That perception was important to her because she had an abiding interest in the labor movement, which gained momentum in the United States during her childhood. She saw Berea as an opportunity to learn about the “dignity of labor,” a concept that she felt could be used to fight unfair labor practices.

But Berea’s learning-labor-service continuum has a way of distilling one’s priorities. Ultimately, Alice ventured into the complexities of a black and white issue instead of tackling labor or anti-Semitic issues.

Since that time, Alice has found success in her professional life: first, as an instructor for teachers of the first Head Start program and, later, as a researcher at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Through her labor assignment, Berea introduced her to the field of early childhood education, which led her to graduate assistantship work at the Yale Child Study Center. At 54, she earned a graduate degree in social work and went on to work with cancer patients who were receiving home care. After

retiring in 1994, Alice came into a new healing and educational type of work. As a tour guide at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for 15 years, Alice told of the unspeakable horrors of the “Final Solution.”

One poignant display contains a photograph of General Dwight D. Eisenhower with corpses of inmates who perished at the Ohrdruf camp. “He wanted witnesses so history could know this really happened because there would be a day in the future when people would say it didn’t happen,” says Alice.

Ending our conversation, Alice reads a poem she wrote as a Berea student nearly 60 years ago:

I have in the palm of my hand my relation to man and the universe.

The flashes of crimson that excite my mind and emotion are actions and thoughts which give man fertile soil to respect himself and develop his potentialities.

Labor unions, day nurseries, adult education, health and housing, full employment.

A society of men who are in cordial relations with each other. The yeomans. The highest ideals.

I still choose to go to a political rally rather than a concert. ‘Mmmm, I don’t know,’ adds Alice.

I still choose to read The Nation rather than a poetry magazine. ‘Mmmm, I don’t think so.’

I still choose to discuss race relations rather than Truman Capote.

I still consider the highest esthetic experience my relationship with man rather than Picasso’s Woman in the Mirror.

“I’ve kind of loosened up a little,” says Alice after reading her poem.

Priorities may change a bit over time, but deep convictions rarely do. The dignity of labor, respect for people – all people, regardless of race or religious affiliation, and communal responsibilities are Alice’s deep convictions, ones she intends to extend to another generation.

“Making the world a better place is definitely a part of my life,” says Alice. “That’s very much a part of my life and my children’s lives.”

When asked what she would say if she had the stage and all the world was listening, Alice pauses. It is an awkward silence — the kind that makes you sit up and listen closely.

“*Tikkun olam*,” she says quietly in Hebrew.

It means: Repair the world.

“*Tikkun olam*”: repair the world

Breaking through the Stained-Glass Ceiling

By Deb McIntyre, '10

While lost in the deep woods of Jackson County, Kentucky, a Berea College student visiting the area discovered jonquils in full bloom along the dirt road she was traveling. Finding the cultivated flowers in the middle of nowhere so intrigued Lisa Wilson Webb, '86, that she parked the car and began walking. "A little grove of trees opened up before me and there, in the middle of the landscape, was a one-room church house. My first thought was, 'This is the most beautiful place I have ever seen,'" recalls Lisa.

She explored inside the abandoned building, finding a cast-iron, pot-bellied stove in the center and two rows of handmade pews. "Spiders, snakes, and mice had taken up residence, and it was obvious that it had sat for many years unused."

Lisa's imagination ignited. Tambourines still hung on pegs near the two windows, and on the log walls

were written names dating back to the early 20th century. "A partial railing at the front led to a pulpit, from which I envisioned many fiery sermons preached over the years."

Illumination flooded her spirit. Lisa

According to the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, while women make up just over half of the U.S. population, only 15 percent of 403,000 clergy workers were women in 2004.

returned many times to the former Climax Pentecostal Holiness Church. "That little abandoned church was a holy place for me - a *poustinia* - a sacred place of the soul." Here, the call to work in God's church that she first received at age eight became solidified. She credits her father, Jim Wilson, and his deep abiding faith in God with her own call to ministry.

Lisa is now the pastor of Woodstock Presbyterian Church in Woodstock, Virginia. She found her place behind the pulpit after expanding her vision of the roles women can play in the ministry. "I didn't know any women pastors, so I figured I'd be the best secretary a church had ever known," she says. "I had no

Lisa Webb at Woodstock Presbyterian Church

photo by Laura Wilson Mancari, '86





Debbie Wallace-Padgett

Debbie Wallace-Padgett, '78, is another amazing woman who manages to balance her professional church vocation with raising a family and being a minister's wife. Debbie is the senior pastor at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Lexington, Kentucky, heading a staff of 10 that leads a congregation of more than 1,300 members. Her path to the pulpit began at Berea. The summer before her senior year, while pursuing a major in physical education, the Lawrence County native worked at Aldersgate Camp & Retreat Center in Estill County. (Her husband Lee is now the director.) While there, Debbie felt God calling her to ministry.

She was encouraged in her new commitment by Randy Osborne, long-time campus minister and religion professor. Debbie didn't struggle with the decision to seek a career behind the pulpit. "I have prayed about, processed, and studied this issue carefully as I desire to live in a way that is in step with Christian teaching. My mind and my heart tell me that Scripture interpreted in light of its context and intent affirms both women and men in ministry roles. Serving in ministry as a vocation is truly a privilege and joy when God has called you to that role."

female role models until I went to Berea - that's really when I experienced a growth in my own understanding of women in ministry. It never occurred to me that serving as pastor would be part of God's plan."

This Shenandoah Valley Girl, as she likes to call herself, first became familiar with Berea by attending the annual Celebration of Traditional Music. While Lisa's older sister, Linda Murray, '82, was attending Berea, Lisa and her twin sister, Laura, often came with their family to the annual musical event. Her mother was a bluegrass musician, and Lisa grew up on mountain music. One year, while clogging on stage, she met Loyal Jones, '54, founder and first director of the College's Appalachian Center. Through him she came to value her own experience of growing up in Appalachia. While taking one of his classes, she discovered her "little *poustinia*." The church was so meaningful to her; she actually purchased the property before she left Berea. The church sign now hangs in her office "drawing way too much attention to itself," says Lisa.

At Berea she was nourished in her walk by many of her professors and by members of Union Church, where she and Laura attended. "Just knowing people were approachable was a great comfort for someone who was a long way from home," Lisa says. During this time she "hung her hat" at the Campus Christian Center, and through the center she met poet Maya Angelou, Nobel peace prizewinner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and poet and peace activist Rev. Daniel Berrigan. "I had read writings from these 'giants in the faith', but meeting them and spending time with them taught me a great deal about respect for the whole human race."

Planning to be "the best church educator a church had ever known," Lisa graduated from Berea and enrolled at Lexington Theological Seminary. However, after obtaining her master of divinity degree, she wasn't satisfied. Still searching for her special niche, she decided to be "the best religion professor a

college had ever known," and enrolled in the master of theology degree program at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. "At Union I was asked to preach at a number of churches and fell in love with sermon preparation and delivery - so I finally said 'yes' to God's call to be a pastor."



Lisa Webb takes a call and prepares notes for a pastoral meeting.

Her first pastorate was at Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, just a few miles from her home in Rockbridge County, Virginia. Many acquaintances and friends were in the congregation, along with other Berea alumni. Her father's kindergarten teacher attended. "It was a surreal experience serving as pastor to someone who made my father stand in the corner many decades earlier!" In retrospect, she looks at her time there as a highlight of her 17 years as a minister and a humbling experience. "I look back at some of my sermons and I'm amazed that I didn't put myself to sleep most Sundays!"

Over the years, Lisa has had to deal with people who are struggling to accept or reject her as a pastor. She has had families leave churches in protest because of her gender. Incidents occur, however, that encourage her. In one church, five members voted against her being called as their pastor, but within three months, they had privately come to Lisa to say they had changed their minds and were behind her.

"All I can do is be true to myself, try to live out of the core of my being, and follow as I am led. My experience thus far has been that once people get to know me they see how harmless I am!"

Woodstock Presbyterian Church is a mid-sized congregation and the only full-time English as a Second Language church in Shenandoah County. It has three Latina ministries and two Latino pastors on staff. Lisa serves as president of the Woodstock Clothes Closet, which sells donated clothing to raise money for various charities. She also heads up a local Christian group for teens called *Synago*, Greek for "come together." She manages to squeeze all this in while being married to a pastor, the Rev. Randy Webb, pastor of Nineveh Presbyterian Church, Front Royal, Virginia, and raising daughters Anna, 11, and Ashley, 10. She has four grown stepsons.

Lisa encourages all women who are considering taking on the "reverend" title. "Ministry for me is a humbling call. Every Sunday I'm amazed that people will actually sit through yet another sermon, yet another prayer. But it's a fabulous feeling to know that I'm right where God wants me to be. I haven't experienced anything that's more exhilarating."



photo by Laura Wilson Mancari, '86

Down the street from her church, Lisa finds an antique store where she can shop and chat with community folks.



Julie Love reads from Ezekiel

The pulpit is not the only place to minister as **Julie Hager Love, '87**, knows. The Berea native grew up around the College with her mother, Dr. Joy Hager, a physical education professor, and her father, Dr. Paul Hager, retired associate dean, giving her support and encouragement. As a teenager, Julie was heavily involved in church and social justice ministries. Julie found her faith was also strengthened by serving at Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center. It was her mother, however, who first planted the seed that led her to where she is today by saying, "What about a career in the church?"

The religion major credits her professors for leading her to "think logically and participate in theological dialogue," particularly Dr. Robert Suder, Dr. John Wallhausser, '81, and Dr. David Hester '85. Julie attended Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary after graduation, where she met her husband, Dr. George Love, a Presbyterian minister.

Julie serves as director of Connectional Ministries for the Kentucky Annual Conference for the United Methodist Church. The state conference has 835 congregations, with about 150,000 members. Julie provides resources to those churches and their large variety of missions and ministries. She also works with ministries at colleges in the state that are affiliated with her denomination, Methodist programs on public college campuses, camps and retreat centers, and serves as general manager for the annual conference of laity and clergy.

Being a female minister has its own set of challenges. Julie says she is often in the minority during meetings and sometimes feels responsible to make her voice heard, plus "it is not unusual to be overlooked or forgotten." She forms close relationships with other women ministers who offer their encouragement. "These women are invaluable to me for their sharing, leadership development, and support. They have greatly supported my spiritual journey."

“What Does It Mean to Say that

By Larry D. Shinn, President

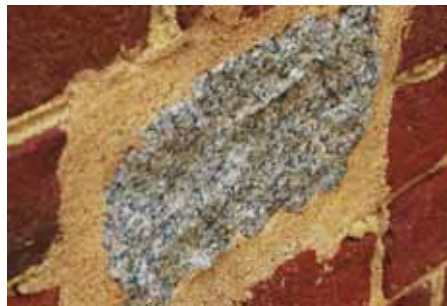
As you can imagine, a college president receives a great deal of mail from many alumni and friends who often express differing points of view. I welcome the opportunity to respond to the questions raised in such letters I receive. In accord with the theme of this issue of the *Berea College Magazine*, and in response to two letters in particular that I received this fall, I would like to address an important question that has arisen from many Berea graduates and friends in recent years, “What does it mean to say that Berea is a Christian college?”

One writer this fall expressed dismay that Berea’s “inclusive Christian” theology has caused Berea to lose its “singular” Christian focus because we admit Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, and Hindu students as well as Christian students. With such an open door to persons of other faiths, the writer wondered, how can we call ourselves Christian? The second writer feared that Berea’s Christian emphasis made us a “Bible College” that perhaps was unwelcoming to persons of other faiths and lifestyles. Did Berea’s Christian faith and practice, that writer wondered, make our campus an uncomfortable place to live and study for persons different from ourselves? I wondered how the first writer would not know of the continuity of Berea’s Christian roots, while the second did not know of the inclusive nature of those Christian roots which welcome “all peoples of the earth.”

The two contrasting ideas about how a person of the Christian faith acts toward persons of other faiths remind me of the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well (John 4). One way of locating Berea’s inclusive Christian self-understanding is to consider the vital balance Jesus himself exhibited as he remained faithful to his own Jewish tradition while expressing his

compassion and respect for those who lived a faith and culture different from his own. In the words of Jesus,

“The hour is coming and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is a Spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24, RSV)



Birthplace of Martin Luther (Eiselban, Germany)

Such inclusive compassion directed the life and ministry of Jesus and propelled the Rev. John G. Fee to found the Berea community and Union Church in 1853 based upon this Christian Gospel of “impartial love.” Two scriptures were central to Fee’s theology. The first passage (Matthew 22:36-40) contains the Two Great Commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and



Doshisha University (Japan)



Thessaloniki (Greece)

Each of 54 stones in the 3 exterior walls of Danforth Chapel “speaks of victories” and represents an important person or place. The stones were collected by William H. Danforth.



Berea Is a “Christian College?”

with all your soul, and with all your mind...[and] You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” These two commandments were understood to summarize “all the laws and prophets.” The second passage (Acts 17:26), “God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth,” summarized Fee’s and the Bible’s inclusive Christian view, and became the motto of Berea College in 1866.



Liddar Valley, Kashmir, India

These Biblical verses were the foundation of Fee’s practical theology and, ultimately, made him a radical abolitionist who believed that all people were children of God. Fee felt that one should practice what one preached; thus, in the midst of slave-holding Kentucky at the threshold of the Civil War, he established a community of “interspersed” on the Berea ridge. Blacks and whites lived as neighbors and worked



Step Pyramid (Egypt)

and learned together. Fee understood that the core Christian message was that Christ was inclusive of “all nations and climes”—a phrase he used in describing Berea College during the inauguration of Berea’s first president in 1869. From this inclusive Christian self-understanding, Fee and his followers focused on educating and serving those on the margins of society.

To the same end, the contemporary Berea College has continued Fee’s belief and practice of impartial love. In 1993 the faculty and trustees of Berea College reconfirmed the Great Commitments as Berea’s mission and drafted a new Preamble that says in part,

Adherence to the College’s scriptural foundation, ‘God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth,’ shapes the College’s culture and programs so that students and staff alike can work toward both personal goals and a world shaped by Christian values such as the power of love over hate, human dignity and equality, and peace with justice....

Beginning in 1997, those of us on Berea’s campus spent five years addressing the strategic question “What does it mean to be an inclusive Christian college in the 21st century?” The College engaged in lengthy discussions among Berea’s core constituencies—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and trustees. The result was a statement that reaffirmed Berea’s inclusive Christian roots and extended them into our contemporary world. Thus, in Spring 2002, the General Faculty and Board of Trustees adopted and published a statement called *The Christian Identity of Berea College* that makes clear that “Berea College has a particular Christian self-understanding that makes it stand apart



Nazareth, where Jesus lived and worked (Palestine)

photos by Caitlin Ambrose, '10 and Lucy Begley, '10

from most other schools that call themselves ‘Christian.’” In the spirit of impartial love, the College continues to welcome students, faculty, and staff “from every clime and nation,” to study and to work together as they had in John Fee’s day when such notions of equality and welcoming were not supported in most Christian communities in Kentucky, or in much of the United States. From the beginning, Berea schools were never associated with any denomination of a Christian church. The statement concludes, “Berea College was rooted in a Christian spirituality that was egalitarian, socially provocative, and focused on serving the black and white students of Appalachia and beyond.”

It is also the case that Berea is a college and not a church and, thus, must necessarily seek Truth wherever it can be found. To that end, the College’s students and faculty explore the roots of our Christian heritage through required general curriculum studies that provide a historical view of the many strands of Christianity and how those different Christian traditions are situated within the context of other world religions. A year ago, Berea faculty engaged in reading for a semester, followed by a three-week trip to Israel, Jordan, and Egypt where they explored the various traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in real-world settings. Those faculty returned to teach a required General Studies course for all students called “Understandings of Christianity” that provided reflection on the many forms of Christianity in a pluralistic religious world. In a world where religion too often divides people and lead to conflicts and even violence, at Berea we study such conflicts to understand ways of peacemaking where we work and live. In the contemporary Berea College, we continue to focus on serving those at the margins of society, and we continue to educate a diverse set of



from the Sea of Tiberius where Jesus taught (Israel)



Byzantine Church (Turkey)



given by Mahatma Gandhi (India)



The Palace of Assyrian King Sargon II (Iraq)

students from Appalachia and across America—and this year, from 64 other countries around the world.

Perhaps you can guess how I answered the two letters from writers with differing concerns about Berea’s “Christian nature.” First, there is no need to fear that Berea is an “exclusive” Christian college, for throughout our history we have welcomed “all peoples of the earth” from “all nations and climes.” Such welcoming stems from a Christian foundation of love and peace grounded in the life of Jesus. Thus we understand our inclusive roots to be in a Biblical and inclusive Christianity.

Second, Berea has not abandoned its Christian roots. The numerous and robust programs of our Campus Christian Center serve a variety of Christian groups and modes of worship, as well as initiate dialogues with those of other faiths. Just as a student who attends a Jewish or Muslim university expects to learn about those religious traditions, so too are all Berea students encouraged to study the Christian traditions in their diversity. While Berea’s inclusive Christianity has remained faithful to its Biblical roots that focus on love of God and love of neighbor, that very Christian focus suggests that all people of the earth are our brothers and sisters.

We live in a world in which fallible, human misperceptions of the past were set forth as if they were eternal, religious truths. Yet we know that women are not inferior to men, nor are blacks inferior to whites. We who guard a tradition of impartial love and equality must practice, not just preach, what we believe. That was Berea’s understanding of the practical implications of its Christian faith 153 years ago, and it remains so today. Indeed, “God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth.” Is that not what John Fee preached and practiced and what it still means to say today that Berea is an inclusive Christian college in the 21st-century?

Reading the Book of Nature

Micah Johnson, '08, Serves God as a Christian Environmentalist

Q How did growing up in rural West Virginia contribute to your environmental interests?

My brothers and I were homeschooled because my parents wanted to be an integrated part of our education. That ranged from textbooks to more practical skills. From my mother, who was a teacher, I learned to quilt, cook, can, and preserve. My father taught us about taking care of our animals, gardening, and building. I remember countless hours playing outside – we lived next to the national forest. We didn't have a television. Inside was boring; outside was about fishing in our pond, hiking, swimming, making forts in the woods and dams in the stream.

Right now I'm reading *Last Child in the Woods* in which Richard Louv identifies what he calls a "nature deficit disorder":

children growing up without a connection to nature. That affects their decisions later in life, especially a lack of concern about the environment.

Q Your father, Allen Johnson, co-founded Christians for the Mountains. In what ways has his ministry coincided with your interests in sustainable natural resources management?

My father taught our family to be spiritually contemplative. He'd invite us to go out and "open the Book of Nature," which meant basically to go alone into

the woods, sit in nature, listen, and meditate. We prayed, asking, "God, teach me through nature. Teach me through what You have made."

We may have lost the art of meditation. Some Christians are afraid to say they meditate, but I think God calls us to do so. He says, "Be still and know that I am God." We go into the woods, sit with a Bible, and look around us. I remember many powerful lessons from God through nature. You can notice how trees grow best if not too close to each other. You can understand that as Christians we work out our faith not from beneath the shade of others, but in Christ's light where we reach our fullest height. God shows us these lessons.

In the city it's hard to find real quiet. I miss the silence in nature—the solitude and closeness of God. If you grow up in a place where all you see is concrete and bricks, it's hard to see that man is a part of God's creation and that God is always close to us in nature. I like that I can go outside in God's creation and feel God speaking to me.

Q Describe how humans interconnect with the natural world?

The word *dominos* comes to mind, with its implications toward stewardship. God gave us dominion over the plants, animals, and the earth, but dominion comes from the word *dominos*, meaning that which is higher on the stalk of the plant. The leaves, for example, care for and feed the whole plant. You can't cut the root or the plant falls over. Thus, we may use the root, but we must not destroy or deplete it. Because humans are higher functioning, we must take care of the earth and of each other. The environment can't sustain our rate of consumption. It's up to us to care about the environment. It is our spiritual responsibility.

—Normandi Ellis



Above, Micah on a monkey bridge in Thailand. Right, Micah works with the eco-machine plants.



photos by Michelle Toweles, '10

Theology, Ecology and Plain Living

An Interview with Tammy Clemons, '99, Sustainability Coordinator

Q How did Berea influence your current work and understanding?

My sophomore year in Berea's general education program became life-altering. Mike Rivage-Seul, my religion and historical perspectives professor, blew up every assumption I had about Christianity in relation to world views, giving me a new respect for it. Berea's classes had a strong social justice and modern take on liberation theology. It all started for me right there.

Later, women's studies professor Peggy Rivage-Seul brought Rosemary Radford Ruether, a feminist theologian, to campus. I attended her public lecture on eco-feminism, and I thought, "That's what I am. I am an eco-feminist and an activist in social justice and environmental issues." I was very concerned that some of the same patriarchal systems that oppress people are also leading to environmental pollution and destruction. When I heard Rosemary speak I realized, "This makes sense."

Q What prompted you to get your master's degree at Harvard's Divinity School?

If you pay attention to certain possibilities and synchronicities, you end up where you were meant to be. In my "women and religion" class, I learned that a recruiter for the Harvard Divinity School was visiting campus. I found out that Harvard had many student activist groups and that my class had been reading a book by one of their professors, Elizabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, a feminist theologian. I was so excited. Berea College offered students money to visit graduate schools. I visited Harvard, applied, was accepted, and two years later earned my master's degree.

Q How did divinity school shape your interest in ecology?

I think every religion has some basis for environmentalism. Even Christian ethics addresses environmental issues through social justice. The most interesting

lessons on sustainability derive from world religions, and I used that idea for my graduate school papers – addressing feminist theology in whatever form it appeared: Hindu, Buddhist, and so on. At Harvard, I was involved in student activist groups and also took a course on "Organizing: People, Power, and Change."

I carried the concept of sustainability with me from my life in Kentucky. At Berea I had participated in Environmentally Concerned Students (ECS), which was part of the Students for Appalachia program and later became the student volunteer group HEAL. I helped put together Berea's first EarthRoots festival. I had already been pursuing an interest in sustainable living, sustainable gardening, and homesteading.

Q How does studying religion inform your work now as Berea's Sustainability Coordinator?

When I returned to Berea, I worked in

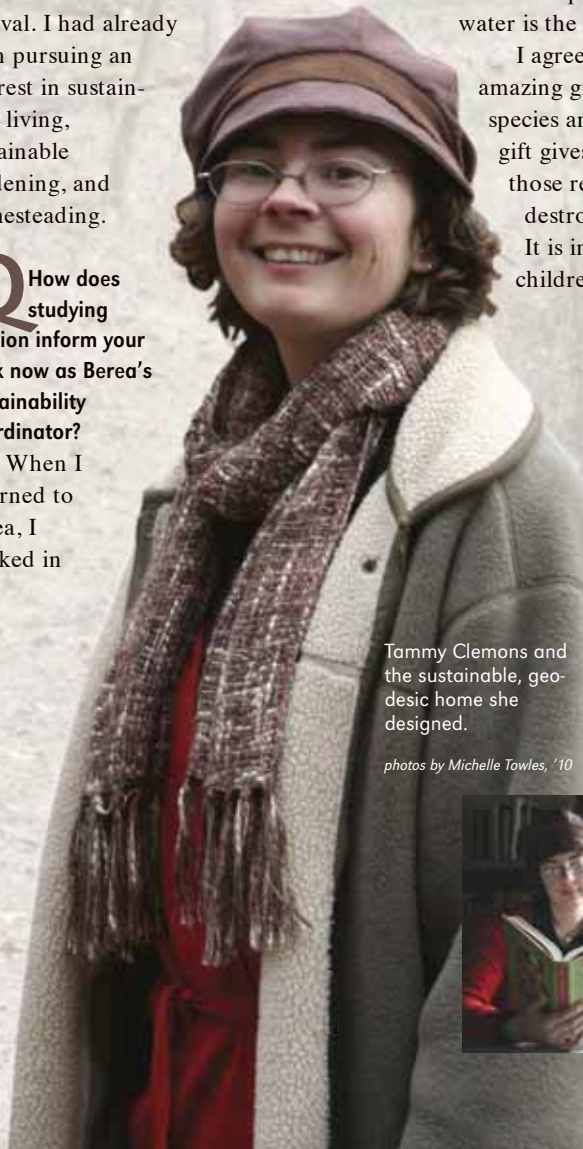
the President's Office for four-and-a-half years. With all of the new ecologically-friendly building projects, Berea was almost a different place to me. I was well-acquainted with the multi-faceted mission of the College and knew how to articulate the mission to various audiences, and to promote a progressive religious perspective.

It all comes down to how to address the practical needs of the world and honor the beliefs of others. Some people feel that God gave us the world to use, so why not use it? We can have complex discussions about the uses of oil and the diversity of sustainable alternatives, but for some traditional peoples, the presence of oil and water is the planet's sacred life-blood.

I agree that God has bestowed many amazing gifts on us for survival of the species and for personal benefit. That gift gives us the responsibility to use those resources in ways that don't destroy them for future generations.

It is in our hands to ensure that our children and their children thrive.

—Normandi Ellis



Tammy Clemons and the sustainable, geodesic home she designed.

photos by Michelle Towles, '10



When Prayer Becomes Activism

An Interview with Michelle Tooley, Eli Lilly Chair in Religion

Q Tell me about your religious tradition and how that affects your sense of place.

I grew up Southern Baptist, but was influenced by my Presbyterian grandfather who was a storyteller and had friends of many traditions. He was a down-to-earth philosopher who walked his land and felt a real connection to place. You know, you can feel holy standing on a beach and holding a rock in your hand. It's that sense of allowing oneself to be embraced by a place and finding that holiness comes from within. No clergyman tells you "This is when, or where, or how you experience the holy," but rather you allow yourself to have an open window to the Spirit.

The world is God's body. I think our real work is to care for each other, to care for the planet, and do something about the violence we see.

Q How did religion become your vocation?

Having a bachelor's degree in Spanish, I'd worked with youth in churches in the Cayman Islands. From there I attended seminary, where the pastor encouraged me to follow the tug I felt and see where it led me. Working in Haiti with Border Links, I had an experience that made me realize that I could either work with the poor there, or use this passion to teach ways the Church might respond to poverty. I ended up doing my doctorate in Christian ethics. We all have moments that speak to our heart. It's like yeast that grows in us. This was one of those moments.

A similar moment came in Fort Worth, Texas where I was teaching the children of undocumented aliens. Because their parents came here illegally, the children couldn't attend public school. One night I went to school and found no students there. I went into the director's

office; he said INS had raided another alternative school like ours. In the priest's desk they found the children's names in order to deport their families. Everyone went underground.

One by one that night parents came to tell their stories. I heard from people who had crossed borders in the trunk of a car or stuffed into a

basket, people who paid "coyotes" to bring them in and who took all their money. That's when I began blending faith and politics together. I had to prove that Jesus somehow does care. I couldn't envision any kind of faith that didn't include social justice. I got my doctorate in Christian ethics and have continued my work in advocacy. An older nun and I joined others to lobby the Fort Worth Independent School District. Now, even undocumented children receive a public education.

Q Can you say more about how God works through others?

Blaise Pascal says there's a God-shaped hole in everyone. Today many people seek spirituality and long for something beyond themselves. Ultimately, God is Mystery and cannot be defined by a formula that says, "God is this and fits right here." I find God where my soul expands and is embraced by everything around me—by nature, by a windswept tree, or a beautiful lake, but some of the holiest places have been unexpected.

In one Guatemalan town where soldiers had opened fire and massacred nonviolent protesters, the community organized to tear the military base down. Now, corn grows where once people were tortured. That growing corn is a sign of hope and life. In that ground where there has been bloodshed and torture, somehow people turned it around with the help of their faith in each other and in God.

Places in Central and Latin America have been touched by violence and evil, but in spite of it, people have shown an incredible faith. These indigenous Roman Catholics have a spirituality grounded in a Mayan tradition. They stay very connected to sacred place. Even in difficult circumstances, they honor the earth with everything they do.

—Normandi Ellis

Michelle Tooley at the U.S. Zambian Embassy in D.C. (above) and with peace camp participants in Chiapas, Mexico (left).

photo of Tooley by Michelle Towles, '10



If These Walls Could Talk

By Deb McIntyre, '10

If they had tongues, what stories the walls of the 70-year-old Danforth Chapel and the Fireside Room could tell. Lee Morris, former College chaplain and author of *The Distinctive Danforth Chapel at Berea College*, could be considered the mouthpiece for the two rooms that have been the hub of Christian activity on campus for several generations of students. He remembers much of the joy and anguish that have traversed those spaces.

Lee recalls finding a somber lone student late one evening struggling with his failures from the Chapel's front row. Once from his office he could hear the cries of an anguished young woman for nearly an hour as she prayed before the altar. There

are also recollections of students washing each other's feet as they consecrated themselves for a mission and the fervent prayers of faculty and staff during Centering Prayer. These poignant memories are mingled with personal ones. "I used to steal away to the back of the chapel after showing my Western Traditions class a film on the Holocaust, weeping and praying, 'never again, never again!'"

The Danforth Chapel and Fireside Room were completed in 1937; Draper Hall, in which they are housed, opened in 1938. According to Morris, President William J. Hutchins planned the chapel to intersect with the Draper Building "to represent religion in learning, quoting

Proverbs 1:7 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.'"

Morris believes it is still fulfilling its purpose. "More than any other building on campus, Danforth Chapel represents the roots and perspectives of Berea College in the Christian faith." Jeff Pool, religion professor and director of the Campus Christian Center (CCC), adds, "It's not a huge chapel, but it has become a central point for people to come and meditate and pray and for student Christian groups to come to pray and worship."

A gift from William H. Danforth, Berea College trustee and founder of the Ralston Purina Mills Company, funded the construction of the neo-Gothic chapel, the

THE DANFORTH CHAPEL

DEDICATED TO
THE WORSHIP OF GOD
WITH THE PRAYER

THAT HERE

IN COMMUNION WITH THE HIGHEST
THE YOUTH OF BEREA
MAY ACQUIRE THE SPIRITUAL POWER
TO ASPIRE NOBLY
ADVENTURE DARINGLY
SERVE HUMBLY



Alice Ledford, '07

Three memorable campus ministers—Jeff Poole, Lee Morris, and Randy Osborne



Michael Lorus, '09

Esther and Dennis Heard, '62, renew their vows during summer reunion.

This year Danforth Chapel and the Fireside Room marked seven decades of serving the spiritual needs of those who live and work at Berea College.



Fireside Room, and what became the Great Commitments Society Garden. The embedded stones in the garden came from Danforth's personal collection gathered from all over the world and represent individuals throughout history who dared to make a difference. To Morris, the religious space exemplifies

the third Great Commitment in

practice; a reminder and call to faith in learning; a place of refuge, confession, and challenge; a place to sanctify directions in life; and an invitation to be more human, as God intended.

Chaplain Randy Osborne has the longest pastoral tenure at Berea, having occupied those sacred spaces for the greater part of 43 years. He arrived on campus in 1965 to replace a professor on sabbatical. He moved from that position to director of guidance and testing to dean of the Foundation School to coordinator of religious activities. The Virginian also was an assistant professor of philosophy and religion and coordinated the required Sunday night chapels, bringing in "firemen" (fire and brimstone) pastors to fill the pulpit. He taught an Old Testament class, which, like the New Testament class, was a required course for all students.

One task Randy is remembered for at the College is officiating more than 1,000 weddings in Danforth Chapel – most of them for students or former students. A popular date for nuptials in the past was the day before graduation when family and friends were at hand. One Saturday Randy tied the knot for six couples in ceremonies that began at 6 a.m. and ended at 10 p.m. "I got so tired of saying the wedding vows!" he says. Now he helps many of the same couples renew their vows at summer reunion.

At the height of its use for weddings, there would typically be between three and six weddings on any given weekend, according to stories veteran Annette Singleton told Karen Nall, her replacement as Campus Christian Center's administrative assistant. Now the average is two or three weddings a month on the weekends, says Karen. The chapel and its adjoining room are far from idle. In fact they are busier than ever serving a wide variety of programs – nearly a dozen student organizations – with an average of approximately 250 people using the facilities each week.

Votive candles are placed in the chapel on holy days such as All Saints Day and when tragedy strikes on a massive scale, like when the Virginia Tech shooting took the lives of 32 students and faculty last year. When Hurricane Katrina devastated the southern shores of Louisiana and Alabama, a large vase in the chapel served as a depository for generous donations from students, staff, and faculty.

In the hectic weeks before Christmas break when deadlines for papers and projects and finals are looming, the Fireside Room serves as a homey gathering spot for students who attend the CCC Open House. They stop in to enjoy the complimentary cookies and hot drinks and relax in front of the roaring fireplace in a comfy chair. "Shortly after I took over, it dawned on me that for our students, those days before Christmas were so important – that's family time and students were here without that connection," says Randy.

The winter holidays are also a time the CCC chooses to recognize a sometimes underappreciated group on campus – the facilities management staff and others who work behind the scenes at the College. On the last morning of exams, a buffet brunch is provided in the Fireside Room and some attendees bring musical instruments in and jam together until the event ends at noon.

"Right now the Campus Christian Center is at the peak of its strength," says Randy. "We have very good, talented, capable, dedicated people there. I'm just delighted to see that because I'm on my way out, and to see it in such strong hands is so reassuring."

Leah Cushman, '08, is one student who has benefited from the efforts of the CCC. "It is my observation that for such a tiny corner of our campus, this sacred space delivers great value to the Berea College family. This is a lovely space. Even when it is empty, it is not truly vacant; the Spirit is in residence in this place."



"When you are in there at the right time of the day – early morning or late afternoon – there is a blue glow. There is something deeply spiritual about that color."

— Jeff Pool,
Campus Christian
Center Director

She Followed Heavenly Strains

By Danielle Holleran, '08, and Beth Bissmeyer, '09



photo by Tyler Castells, '08

In the small town of Salina, Kansas, Krista Bowker, '06 recalls growing up in a family in which church music was as much a part of daily life as the wheat fields on the plains. Everyone in her family plays an instrument.

Krista not only plays flute, piano, and recorder, she also sings.

During her junior and senior years of high school she traveled with a Christian choir group on its seven-month tour through 30 states and 3 European countries. "I encourage everyone to travel," says Krista. "Traveling benefits you, even if you return to live where you grew up. Personally, I feel it has brought me closer to God." While attending Berea College, she undertook study abroad twice: once during the short term 2005 in Papua New Guinea, and again in the summer of 2006 in Japan.

Originally, Krista was not going to major in music, even though music was a huge part of her life and such an important factor in bringing her to God. But by the middle of her first semester at Berea, Krista began to feel that God wanted her to study music. "Where you lead me, Lord, I will follow," is Krista's philosophy, and so she followed Him into the field of music. She didn't know what was going to come of being a music major, but she prayed and trusted God to show her what was needed of her.

Krista, who also composes music, began to realize that Christian music is solidly placed in the United States and that it does not exist widely in other countries. This is when Krista learned of ethnomusicology, its scholarly facets, and about Papua New Guinea. Ethnomusicology is studying music in its cultural context and focuses around the idea of analyzing and documenting non-exposed indigenous music. Unlike the

Western notation system, many indigenous people do not have their music written down, but pass it on by ear through the generations.

Krista went to Papua New Guinea to observe the ethnomusicologists doing field work there; they also happened to be missionaries. In this way, Krista could see how faith mixed with scholarly purposes. Missionaries previously had tried to teach the Papuans about the Christian God by singing "Amazing Grace" in both English and Kol, the native language. Since the song did not fit the culture, it meant little to them, says Krista. Instead, Krista worked to teach them how to worship God within their own culture. "People are people wherever you go," Krista says. "That God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth really is true."

Papua New Guinea was only the beginning for Krista. She wants her music to be an outpouring of love to people. To Krista, God and music are two inseparable parts of her life that she wants to share. So she began to make plans for her next big

of Music



Katie Mitzel, '08, Krista, and Gabrielle Frasure, '07, at an International center event.

trip. Her summer trip to Japan took shape during her senior seminar project with the question: How can those who have not grown up in an ethnic and religious culture that understands black gospel music learn about it and become part of it?

The next part in her mission was to create a black gospel music curriculum, but she needed a curriculum made for someone who was unfamiliar with the subject, so she did some preliminary work looking at the history of gospel music. In order to understand the intentions of the original music, you need to understand where it came from, says Krista. "Being unaware of

the origins can cause you to lose some of the original meaning."

During a summer internship at Berea, Krista interviewed gospel musicians all over the States, including Dr. Horace Boyer, the first person to write anything scholarly on gospel music. She found it very exciting to make all these connections, she says. It is that new, unexplored territory that Krista was being led into by God. And she followed Him.

"I only had a couple of loose contacts in Japan. I didn't know what I'd be getting myself into, but I wound up having plenty of information," Krista says. She found that there are lots of websites about gospel music, but they were all in Japanese. Once in Japan, she found that there were more than 2,000 gospel choirs there. By working with a few choirs in Japan, she gained new



Krista and the leaders of the Power of Voice music club in Osaka, Japan.

experiences and discovered much that others don't know. "It goes to show that even in this age of technology you can't learn everything via the internet. Sometimes you just need to be in the culture itself," says Krista.

Krista says that she doesn't know what her future holds, except for her life's three constants: God, music, and travel. She had hoped to receive a Watson fellowship to explore black music in Europe, South Korea, and Africa, but she was not accepted. Rather than feeling discouraged, Krista says she trusts in God for things to work out. There remains a vast amount of things to discover all over the world. After all, Krista asks, "How else will people find out if no one does the research?"



The Hallelujah Family during a mass choir concert in Tokyo.

Pastoral Counseling

By Normandi Ellis

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina on the corner of a quiet street sits the Brevard Cancer Center. Inside the white stucco building men and women sit together and yet are separate – sometimes flipping through magazines, sometimes holding hands, sometimes with their arms crossed protectively across their chests.

Upstairs sits Dr. G. Keith Parker, '58, a soft-spoken man with a trim white beard and a bolo tie. He works at the center as a pastoral counselor and Jungian analyst. Sometimes the clients sitting downstairs come up to talk with him

about their dreams. He offers them art supplies to help them capture their dream images. Often when people are ill, he says, they pay more attention to dreams; recurring images evolve.

On this particular week, he will lecture at the Haden Institute, a graduate theological foundation near Hendersonville, North Carolina that trains counselors in the Jungian mystical Christian tradition. "I am taking with me a sequence of 40 pictures from a cancer patient. In these spontaneous pictures just thrown on the canvas, one can clearly see the depression, the ups and downs,

Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes.

— Carl Jung

and the Language of Dreams



G. Keith Parker

and conflicts,” he says. “The most intensive work I’ve done has been with cancer patients who put their dreams on a piece of art paper. Suddenly the dream is both visual and

very visceral, but extremely therapeutic. They can do what they want with it—we may interpret it, or they may just experience it, but the putting down of the dream is important.”

Keith says that he always wanted to help others. After graduating from Berea with a biology degree, he had planned on becoming a medical missionary. Apparently, God had other plans. Drafted out of medical school, he became a Navy frogman, disarming bombs and working on nuclear weapons for almost four years. “We rescued astronauts (after their space modules landed in the ocean) and did a lot of that cowboy type stuff,” he recalls. In short, he became familiar with the face of his own mortality.

A near-death experience in the waters off Pawley’s Island, South Carolina – one of many such experiences – changed his life. While searching for a pilot whose plane had gone down, he found himself in rough water about 30-40 feet deep. Entangled in the drag lines of the airplane drag parachute, the plane rolled over on top of him. He remembers the sound of jagged pieces of the fragmented plane banging against his air tank, and he thought there was no way out.

At that moment, he “felt a deep sense of the presence of God.” He recalls reciting “a couple of Psalms,” which calmed him enough so that he could systematically cut the lines that had entangled him, and return to the surface. That was the first of many

experiences, he says. “Each time I had one of those experiences I was able to find a sense of inner peace.”

As Keith and I talk, our conversation is frequently interrupted by his Westminster clock which sounds like church bell chimes nearby. Rather than being an annoyance, the chimes begin to signify for me the very near presence of God.

After the Navy, Keith and his wife Jonlyn felt the call to mission service. He enrolled in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, where he attained his divinity degrees. Having grown up in Dunn’s Rock/ Conneestee, a rural community in Transylvania County, North Carolina, he wrote his doctoral dissertation on folk religion in Southern Appalachia. He pastored a few rural Kentucky churches, and then was appointed to the faculty at the Rüslikon-Zürich, Switzerland, where he and his family lived for 23 years.

Under Communist rule, all religions had been lumped together, so Keith worked with a number of Eastern European ecumenical groups. “My Berea experience was very good for getting inside other cultures,” he says, comparing his experiences on campus with the multicultural settings he encountered in Europe. The three Parker children grew up with nationals from many countries dining at the family table. “I can’t even count the number. There were Russians and Africans and Asians and all nationalities.”

He found himself contemplating the nature of the Divine and how people of other cultures speak of God. While working in Eastern Europe, especially the former Soviet Union lands, and satellite lands such as Romania, Keith says, he discovered that the Christians there cherished similar spiritual beliefs comparable to those held in Biblical times. In particular, “They felt the dreams and poems that came to you at night were very important.” During the service, a pastor asked whether “anyone had had a word from the Lord—meaning a



Keith Parker discusses dream processing techniques at Haden Institute.

dream or a poem. People would stand and recite poems that had come to them during the night, or they would tell a dream,” Keith says. As in African or Native American traditions, the dreams were not interpreted. “It was just a sharing, because it came to them from the core of their soul.”

While teaching counseling and therapy at the International Baptist Seminary in Zurich, many well-educated individuals – doctors, lawyers, and international students from 26 different countries – came to work with him. Their competency challenged Keith to study depth psychology. By divine providence, his office was directly across the Lake of Zürich from the Jung Institute, so he decided to receive further training there.

While on one level he had been struggling with reconciling his ideas on science and faith, Keith “discovered that Jung had dealt with similar issues for quite a long time.” The concepts and tools he learned at the Jung Institute helped him find new ways to deal with refugees from Communist countries.

What Keith found was a common language: the language of dream symbols.

“Dreams,” he says, “come from a

place deep in our soul. Everybody has dreams.” Jung offered Keith, in his role as a counselor, an understanding and appreciation for how dreams help us live more fully. Dreams offer advice; they hint at possibilities; they help us solve problems. “Most of the major discoveries in our modern world came through a dream.” He cites Wilhem Röntgen’s ideas about the x-ray and Einstein’s theories of relativity as the result of daily exploration of scientific problems that precipitated creative breakthroughs that appeared in dreams.

Dreams have been called God’s forgotten language. “Many people in the Eastern world, as in other societies, still see the dream as a divine message or word from the Lord. My work is to help others understand that dreams are important and always come in symbolic language, the universal language.”

Because people resonate with the power of the symbol, “Our dream images, our myths, and fairy tales can tell us so much more.” Symbolic language is crucial, Keith says, but unfortunately, many people see symbolic images as literal. As an example of literal thinking, Keith recalls a time when he was referring to “The Song of Solomon” as part of a couples counseling course. During some sessions he recited such images from the poem as ‘Thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Mount Gilead,’ and ‘Thy temples are like a piece of a pomegranate,’ and ‘Thy neck is like the Tower of David.’ “Beautiful poetry, powerful poetry,” he comments.

Keith wondered aloud whether any literalist would have trouble with such imagery. A Spanish artist in the class took Keith’s comment as a cue and painted a literal interpretation of Solomon’s love. “It became this grotesque creature with teeth of diamonds, and eyes of fish pools, and pomegranates... but it pointed to the absurdity of being literal and missing the beauty and depth of the image. That, to me, is where understanding the symbols and seeing the breadth and depth is so powerful in religion and in dreams.”

Although poetry and dreams were prevalent in the Soviet Union, the government looked upon them with suspicion. Keith, and his Russian-speaking colleagues, saw those dreams and poems as one of the ways that God was working

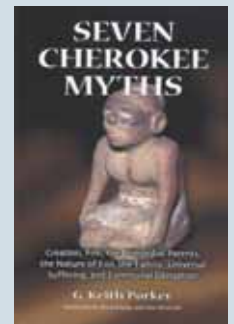


Keith and his wife Jonlyn in the Alps.

through the minds and hearts of the people there. He acquired enough mission money to publish and share some of the indigenous Russian poetry. “They could hop the train and take their poems to other places as a way to say, ‘This is how God is speaking in our place to our people.’” Keith smiles and shakes his head as he recalls this event. “This really upset the KGB. They thought these books were some cryptic language written in code, but it was simply the universal language of spirit.”

Having returned to Appalachia – living in the farmhouse where he grew up – Keith has come full circle. Through the coincidences and patterns of his life, he has found that God speaks not just in other denominations, but in other cultures and religions. His most recent book, *Seven Cherokee Myths*, explores some traditional creation myths of Native Americans in Appalachia. These myths, he says, bring powerful psychological and spiritual truths about the role of family, community, suffering, and the moral development – all the archetypal lessons needed for living in a modern world. This new work, rooted in Appalachia, he says, begins to fill a missing part in his doctoral thesis on folk religion.

Parker examines seven archetypal stories that evoke issues all people face, including the creation of the world, the reason for suffering, and the power of community. (©2005)



The key is to look at the tremendous traditions of Appalachian religion and to examine both their symbolic and literal meanings. He says it comes down to this: “Is there something here that is more profound if I take it symbolically?... The divine by whatever name could be expressed – and should be expressed – in the unique language, art, and experience of other cultures.”

Although that concept may be hard for some to grasp, he urges people to continue to look deeply. “People wear blinders in every culture. But to experience a myth, a symbol, or a dream on a broader level deepens our experience about the nature of God.”

AlumniConnections

17000

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



Berea is Coming to You!

Berea Clubs are located all over the country—one is probably meeting near you!

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

Alumni Executive Council Officers

President: Rachel Berry Henkle, '64

President-Elect: Rob Stafford, '89

Past President: Iverson Louis Warinner, '66
Larry D. Shinn
Mae Suramek, '95
William A. Laramée

Alumni Trustees

Dr. Robert N. Compton, '60
Tyler Smyth Thompson, '83
Janice Hunley Crase, Cx'60
Vicki Allums, '79

Members-At-Large

Charlotte F. Beason, '70
Marisa FitzGerald Aull, '99
Eunice Hall, '78
Betty Maskewitz, '39
Celeste Patton Armstrong, '90
Thomas Smith, '79
Larry Woods, '75
James Cecil Owens, '66
Jennifer Jones Allen, '01
Karen Troxler, '80
Larry Owen, '61
Peggy Mannering, '71
Jason Miller, '98
Lowell Hamilton, '61
Robert Miller, '58
D. Wesley Poythress, '89
Ronald Dockery, '70

Berea Clubs Are Here



Over the next year the Alumni Chapter program will make some changes to better its alumni services. To the charm and tradition of our gatherings we'll be adding new and creative ways to keep more Bereans connected to our alma mater. Based on recent formal and informal alumni surveys, here are some things you can look for in the upcoming year.

A name change—To reflect a less formal, more social network of regional alumni with a broader range of activities, the chapter program will call itself 'Berea Clubs'. Chapter coordinators, now called 'Club Leaders', will receive idea, event planning, and marketing resources in the form of a Club manual.

New marketing of club events—Event notices will arrive on a fixed schedule via postcards, e-mails, and up-to-date details on the Berea College website. Event evaluation cards will help us assess areas in which we can improve.

Bringing Berea to you—We will be bringing more students and student groups to our regional Club events.

More activity choices—Because of the success of activity-based chapter gatherings (museum outings, baseball games, wine-tastings, etc.), we hope you'll think of creative things to do with fellow alums in your hometowns.

Help us raise support for Berea—We will join Club Leaders in raising awareness and financial support to help further Berea's mission.

What does this mean for you?

Existing Chapter Coordinators: If you've sent us your proposed 2008 chapter date and event idea, we'll work with you to incorporate some of the above elements. If you've already booked and/or confirmed a venue or speaker, we'll move forward with your plans and ask you to consider the above in future planning. The manual will arrive soon!

Interested Club Leader volunteers: Bear with us as we develop the Club manual that will detail the role of Club Leaders, provide valuable resources on how to hold a Club event, and explain how the Alumni office can support your efforts.

Questions? Contact Mae Suramek at 859.985.3110 or by e-mail at mae_suramek@bereda.edu.

Save the Date

★ Navy V-12 Reunion: May 3 - June 1, 2008

★ Foundation, Academy, and Knapp Hall Reunions:

October 3 -5, 2008

★ Homecoming: November 7-9, 2008

Homecoming 2007 Was

Tyler Castells, '08



The 2007 Homecoming crowd found a cool, glorious morning for the parade and crisp, star-filled nights for pageants, banquets, concerts, and, of course, basketball. The Lady Mountaineers continued their winning ways against the University of Virginia-Wise basketball team, while the Mountaineers played an excellent, close game succumbing to the UVA-Wise men's team.

Two Berea alumni were honored during the weekend festivities.

Biochemist **Donna J. Dean, '69**, received Berea's 2007 Distinguished Alumna Award. The Lancaster, Kentucky native works as a senior science advisor with Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC, in Washington, D.C. For 27 years she was a senior researcher and executive with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), founding NIH's National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. Before joining Lewis-Burke in 2005, Donna was senior scholar-in-residence at the National Academy of Engineering of the National Academies.

Corey Craig, '97, of Mount Vernon, Kentucky, received the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. Corey is president, CEO, and director of Citizens Bank and Rockcastle Bancorp, Inc. He previously held positions with Fifth Third Bank, The Bank of Mount Vernon, and Community Trust Bank. He serves on the board of four local development groups, including the Rockcastle County Industrial Development Authority, the Rockcastle County Development Board; the Cumberland Valley Development District, and the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED).

On Friday night, the Black Student Union (BSU) crowned Jaimele Bettis, '11, of Cincinnati, Ohio, queen and Christopher Perkins, '10, of Sunflower, Mississippi as king. On Saturday evening, Shiblee Ratan Barua, '08, of Bangladesh, and Hannah Gibson, '09, of Berea, Kentucky, were crowned homecoming king and queen.



Appalachian writer Silas House calls **Sidney Saylor Farr, '80**, "one of the godmothers of Appalachian literature." During Homecoming 2007, Farr signed copies of her recent memoir, *My Appalachia*, published by the University Press of Kentucky.

Event photos by John Harmon, '95



Cool and Star-Filled



To see who attended Homecoming, log onto www.berea.edu/alumni/homecoming/gallery/2007/default.asp. Click the photo and the names will appear.



SUMMER REUNION 2008 *June 13-15*

Welcome Back Special Reunion Classes of
1936, 1938, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, and 1978

Date: _____ Full Name: _____
Name (as it will appear on your name tag): _____ Class Year: _____
Spouse/Guest: _____ Class Year (if applicable): _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Country: _____ Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Friday, June 13

_____ Check if attending (no charge) **Renewal of Wedding Vows** *A special service at Danforth Chapel* **Friday, 4:30 p.m.**
_____ Adult ticket \$10 each **Picnic on the Quad** *Casual outdoor picnic with food and music (Rain Site: Dining Services)* **Friday, 6 p.m.**

Saturday, June 14

_____ Check if attending (no charge) **50th Reunion Breakfast** *Hosted by President and Nancy Shinn for the Class of 1958* **Saturday, 8 a.m.**
_____ Adult ticket \$8 each **Sweetheart Breakfast** *Special breakfast for couples who met at Berea College* **Saturday, 8 a.m.**
_____ Check if attending (no charge) **Awards Coffee Reception** *Meet our 2008 Honorees (No Dress Code)* **Saturday, 10 a.m.**

Distinguished Alumnus Award:
Dr. Buelon Moss, '60

Honorary Alumnus Award:
Bill Bowman

_____ Adult ticket \$10 each **Class Luncheon** **Saturday, Noon.**
_____ Adult ticket \$25 each **2008 Summer Gala** *Elegant dinner followed by dancing with live music (No Dress Code)* **Saturday, 6 p.m.**

Pay by Credit Card

Charge my VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, or AMERICAN EXPRESS

Contribution to Berea Fund: \$ _____

Ticket Costs: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Card Type: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Print Name: _____

Pay by Check

Payable to Berea College

Contribution to Berea Fund: \$ _____

Ticket Costs: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Check #: _____

For a pre-printed name tag & registration packet, early reservations must be made by **June 6, 2008**. Registration packets will not be mailed, but will be available for pick-up at the Alumni Building beginning June 13, 2008. Payment is required for pre-registration of paid events. Tickets may also be purchased at the registration desk during Summer Reunion. Tickets purchased after June 6, 2008 are non-refundable. Registration forms can be sent to: Berea College Alumni Relations, CPO 2203, Berea, KY 40404, or FAX to 859-985-3178, or call our toll free number at 1-866-804-0591. For complete Summer Reunion schedule and other reunion information, check back with us on your alumni website: www.berea.edu/alumni.

About Berea People

1938

Elizabeth Lamb Botteron is a retired teacher living in a retirement home in Portland, OR near her son and his family. At age 90 she keeps active by participating in many activities and taking daily walks.

1944

Geraldine F. Trusty has moved from Berea and now resides in Antioch, TN.

1945

Margie Mantooth Linnartz and Donald E.C. Linnartz reside at Lanier Village Estates in Gainesville, GA. Margie is a homemaker, and Donald is retired from Bell South.

1947

June Settle Edwards and **James Roy Edwards**, '48, of Waynesville, NC, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 10, 2007. They were married in Danforth Chapel at Berea and have two children and four grandchildren.

1951

Virginia Branscum belongs to the Baptist Nurses Fellowship and Diabetics Support Group. She resides in Brodhead, KY.

1954

Dr. Joe L. Morgan was appointed to the Madison County Board of Election and to the Madison County Jury Commission. He resides in Marshall, NC.

1955

Bob Edwards has taken his paintings of campus scenes painted in 1955 when he was an art major at Berea and made them into prints for sale. Bob and **Frances Van Sant Edwards**, '54, reside in Lexington, KY.

The contributions of **Dr. Kenneth Moss** were featured in *House Calls*, a journal of Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau, AK. He received his medical degree from the University of Louisville and served as medical officer in charge at the Alaska Native Health Clinic from 1960-63. He had a lengthy career as a pediatrician in Juneau before retiring in 1999 with Connie, his wife, to Great Falls, MI.

1957

Marshall Wall, Cx'57, has written a book, *From Where I Sit, From Where You Stand: A Roll through Life*, published by AuthorHouse. The book is about his journey of more than 50 years in a wheelchair. Marshall Wall lives in Lexington, KY.

1958

Dr. Bob G. Raines, a retired Emory & Henry College professor, was honored with a prestigious achievement award by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He was selected for the award based on his longstanding contribution to SACS, distinguished and dedicated service to education, significant impact on the educational profession, and a reputation as an innovator for educational change and improvement. He lives in Abingdon, VA.

Alumnus Honored by National Society at Annual Dance School



Michael Lorus, '10

During the 69th annual Christmas Country Dance School, hosted by Berea College since 1938, the national Country Dance and Song Society honored one of its veterans with the Lifetime Contribution

Award. The Rev. Dr. **Pat Napier**, '49, has taught and attended the dance school for the past 57 years. The Society called Pat "a living legend" of Berea.

The 82-year-old native eastern Kentuckian became one of the Country Dancers under the tutelage of Frank H. Smith. After serving as a Merchant Marine during World War II, Pat returned to Berea and began calling for the Country Dancers. During his senior year, he wrote *Kentucky Mountain Square Dance* - a booklet that has become "the gold standard for folk dance teachers and instructors" and is still in use today.

After earning a doctorate in educational administration, Pat worked for 32 years as a Kentucky school teacher and administrator. In 1988 he was ordained a Presbyterian minister and began a second career as interim pastor for a number of rural Kentucky churches.

Paul Sutton visited the Netherlands in July 2007 and while in Luxembourg City visited *The Family of Man* original photos collection by photographer, Edward Steichen. Paul studied these pictures in his Humanities class at Berea and was glad to see the originals. Paul and **Juandola Sutton**, '59, reside in Jackson, TN.

Robert Tcholakian, **Paul Sutton**, and **Tai Chun**, '59 met at Warren Wilson College's 50th banquet in 2007.

1963

Lynda Phillips-Madson, of Earlysville, VA was named



Tai Chun Hong, '59, Paul Sutton, '58, and Robert Tcholakian, '58

interim dean of the University of Virginia's School of Continuing and Professional Studies on September 1, 2007.

1964

Sharon Carrington is a career strategist for the schools of business & technology at Kaplan University. She also facilitates *WiseWomen Celebrate* retreats based on her book. She resides in Durham, NC and has two daughters and five grandchildren.

1966

Breck Robbins was elected to the Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame. He pitched for 30 years winning over 400 games and holds hundreds of league records. Breck pitches senior baseball and has won three national adult baseball championships. He played softball for 40 years winning five national championships in the Amateur Softball Association, United States Slow Pitch Softball Association, and International Softball Association. Breck resides in Cleveland, OH.

Charlie Shivel has retired from practicing law with Stoll Kennon Ogden in Lexington, KY. Charlie and **Sandra Gilley Shivel**, Cx'68, reside in Big Timber, MI.

Bob Vinson, of Union City, CA, retired in July 2007 after 41 years of teaching. He received numerous awards at his retirement, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Haven Teachers Association for his leadership in negotiations of contracts, and awards from the regional organization and the California Teachers Association. Bob and **Kathy Timmerman Vinson**, '65, celebrated 41 years of marriage in August 2007. They have two sons and four grandsons.

1968

Dr. Freida Hopkins Outlaw was recently inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing. She is Chief Nurse and Assistant Commissioner of Special Populations and Minority Services at the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Abilities. Freida received her master's degree in psychiatric nursing from Boston College and a doctorate degree from the Catholic University of America. She has written numerous scholarly articles and received grants totaling \$9.4 million since 2004 for the study of substance abuse treatment and caring for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances.

1973

Carolyn Holbert, Ph.D. is associate dean of the School of Communication, Humanities, and Social Science at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque, NM.

1978

Jeffrey C. Robinson is the 2007-2008 Diversity Fellow for the General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division of the American Bar Association. This division represents 30,000



Breck Robbins, '66

members throughout the United States. He is with the Law Offices of Jeffrey C. Robinson in Selma, AL, where he resides.

1979

David Lookadoo is senior pastor of Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church in Gastonia, NC. He and Cathy, his wife, are the proud grandparents of Nathan.

Joseph "Rocky" Wallace is a full-time faculty member at Morehead State University teaching leadership classes and assisting with other leadership initiatives in Morehead State University's graduate school of education. Rocky received his doctorate in strategic leadership from Regent University in May 2007. He was also appointed lay pastor of Whites Creek United Methodist Church in Boyd County, KY in 2007. Rocky and Denise, his wife, have two daughters, Lauren and Bethany.

1980

Amy Hollifield is the volunteer coordinator for the new visitor center on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Amy resides in Asheville, NC.

1983

Carolyn Pointer was recently named president and chief executive officer of Hillcrest HealthCare, a not-for-profit skilled and long-term care system for the elderly in Knoxville, TN. She is a registered nurse and has a master's degree in public health and health planning administration.

1984

Matt Knupp was elected to coach the Kentucky Academic All State Team at the 2007 National Championships and the team placed third in the nation. He resides in Russell, KY.

Rev. Jeffrey McDowell is in his 10th year as pastor of the Centenary United Methodist Church in Bath, NY. He and Barbara, his wife, have two sons, Nathan and Evan.

1986

Birth: a daughter, Lily Campbell Arnold, to **Dwain Arnold** and Michele Arnold on April 18, 2006. The couple has two other children, Mira Catherine and Owen Christopher. The family resides in Kingsport, TN.

Derwood E. Basham is on the staff of St. Joseph Berea Family Medicine as a full-time family practice physician. **Amy Struss Basham**, '92, is vice president of the national Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association. She is developing her own business as a consultant for Creative Memories, Inc. The couple resides in Berea, KY.

Kevin Messer had an artwork exhibit at the St. James Court Art Show in Louisville, KY in October 2007. *Sunshine Artist* magazine ranked St. James Court Art Show as the #1 art show in the USA.

Deborah J. Lakes Phillips graduated with high honors as salutatorian of the Spring 2006 class of Mid-America College of Funeral Service in September 2007. She was an at-large representative class officer and received the Pi Sigma Eta Academic Award, the Mu Sigma Alpha Award, and the Bill Pierce Award. Deborah resides in Crestwood, KY.



Jeffrey Robinson, '78



Mae Suramek, '95, Adam Mulliken, and son Jack

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.

Donna Gynn Renner Reavis is the director of instructional design and delivery for Delta Career Education Corporation and is responsible for the development of online classes. Donna and Tim, her husband, reside in Wilmington, NC.

1987

Jeffrey Carpenter completed his master's degree in education at the University of Maine. He teaches at Gorham Middle School and he also teaches film history at the Maine College of Art. Jeffrey resides in Gorham, ME and works in his art studio as a painter, photographer, quilter, and jewelry designer.

Tammy Taylor is the foundation scholarship coordinator in the development office at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY. Tammy resides in Berea, KY.

1989

Rhonda Gossage Cole, Cx'89, works at a school's snack store. **Jeff Cole**, Cx'89, is pastor of Macedonia #1 Baptist Church and a team leader at Mitchell Grocery Corporation. The couple resides in Geraldine, AL with their sons, Tyler and Matthew.

Birth: a son, Brandon Kendrick Flowers, to **Pamela Winningham Flowers** and Kenneth Flowers on July 4, 2007. Pam is a special education teacher at Pickett County K-8 in Byrdstown, TN.

1990

Lisa Pierson Ellison teaches college classes part-time. She has completed a program in adult literature, is enrolled in an art program, and begins a children's writer program in early 2008. Lisa has published some poetry and photography and has begun to record some of her own songs. She and her children, Anastasia, Brigitte, and Matthew reside in Birch River, WV.

Laureen Murugi Muriithi received her doctorate in education from The University of West Florida in May 2006. **Danny Husband**, '91, received his doctorate in

marine sciences from The University of South Alabama in May 2007. He is employed at The Nature Conservancy. The couple resides in Kissimmee, FL with their son, Stephen.

1992

Amy Struss Basham is vice president of the national Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association. She is developing her own business as a consultant for Creative Memories, Inc. **Derwood E. Basham**, '86, is on the staff of St. Joseph Berea Family Medicine as a full-time family practice physician. The couple resides in Berea, KY.

Jennifer Rose Escobar, a folk singer, musician, and dancer from Berea, KY, received funding from the Kentucky Arts Council in 2007 to do research on the Danish-American Exchange.

1993

Freddie Brown, after a decade of running the YMCAs Black Achievers program, left the organization in late 2007 to work for the YMCA at the national level. He leads a diversity project aimed at strengthening relationships with minority communities.

1994

Tammy Freeman is a technology support analyst with the division of child development in North Carolina. She and John Freeman, her husband, reside in Raleigh, NC.

Julie La-Dawn Gaylor Miller is a quality assurance specialist for Eastman Chemical Company specializing in the pharmaceutical grade market (cGMP). She and Richard, her husband, reside in Church Hill, TN.

1995

Birth: a son, Jack Thanes Mullikin, to **Mae Suramek** and husband Adam Mullikin on July 23, 2007. The family resides in Berea, KY.

1996

Miranda Prewitt Brookshire is a physician assistant in Winchester, KY, where she resides with her family. She and Randy, her husband, have two sons.

Birth: a daughter, Lacy Jane Hall, to **Cassie Gaywood Hall** and Roy Hall on December 18, 2006. Cassie is a RN in the emergency department at Mercy Medical Center in Canton, OH. The couple has another child, Braden, and the family resides in Akron, OH.

Leonard Hilley II, Cx'96, of Fort Payne, AL, published his first novel in April 2007. *Predators of Darkness*, his mystery/suspense thriller, may be previewed on-line.

Birth: a son, Tony Ruoyu Wu, to **Liwen Liu** and Manxi Wu on June 9, 2007. The family resides in Raleigh, NC.

Tabitha Meadows is the director of clinical services for a non-profit Hospice serving the nine counties of southwest Virginia. She resides in Hurley, VA.

1997

Birth: a daughter, Mattelyne Garya AnnaLee Honeysuckle, to **Matt Fout** and **Myranda Vance Fout** on January 5, 2007. Matt is a buyer for Besse Forest Products Group and Myranda is a log and lumber broker and timber consultant with her new business, Honeysuckle Wood Works. The family resides in Chillicothe, OH.

Adam Hardin, of Southgate, KY, completed a three-week volunteer effort in Lusaka, Zambia in 2007 working with the Kondwa Children's Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping orphans whose parents have died of AIDS. Information about this project may be found on-line.

Josh E. Powell was one of four recipients of the 2007 Administrator of the Year Award presented by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators. He is superintendent of Cloverport Independent Schools and resides in Hardinsburg, KY.

1998

Russell Couch earned the Student of the Year award from Division 51 of the American Psychological Association in 2007. He is working on his doctorate in counseling psychology at the University of Kentucky and resides in Lexington, KY.

Birth: a daughter, Aubrey Jalynn Dillon, to **James Dillon** and Carey Lynn Dillon on July 11, 2007. James has a master of arts in school counseling from Marshall University and is employed as a high school guidance counselor in Wayne, WV. He and Carey are also youth ministers working with teenagers.

2000

Don Hodges completed his master's of arts degree in educational technology leadership from George Washington University in August 2007. He and Jennifer Hodges, his wife, reside in Berea, KY where he is employed at Berea College.

Mark Sanders and Lydia Marlow Sanders reside in Forest, VA.

2003

Josiah Gahn was one of three finalists chosen in Platinum Studios' second annual Comic Book Challenge in August 2007. *Banana Barry* is an online comic Joe created and wrote with Crystal Murphy as the illustrator. He lives in Richmond, KY.

2004

Adwoa Blackburn is working for Independent Residential Living of Central Indiana, Inc. in Indianapolis, IN and finishing a music therapy equivalent program at Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, IN.

2005

Married: Arwen Lee Mills Careaga to Angel Ramon Careaga in February 2007. Arwen completed the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program at Linlee Elementary in Lexington, KY in 2007. The couple resides in Lexington, KY.

Birth: a son, Aiden Ryder Lilly, to **Brandon Lilly** and **Leslie Farmer Lilly** on September 28, 2007. The family resides in Berea, KY.

Sascha Sanderlin is a high school German teacher. He and **Gamelia "Kani" Roten Sanderlin**, '03, were married in 2004. They reside in Sylvania, GA.

2006

Molly Spring will be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Air Force upon graduation. She works as an OB nurse at Travis Air Force Base in California.

2007

Jake Krack won first place Old-Time Fiddle and first place Bluegrass Fiddle at the Fifth Annual Henry Reed Festival 2007 in Glen Lyn, VA.

Passages

The "Passages" section of the *Berea College Magazine* honors Bereans who have passed away. If you know of a Berean who has died, please let the Alumni Association know by sending a copy of the obituary to CPO 2203 Berea KY 40403. Or you may email diana_taylor@bereda.edu. Please include the person's class year or connection to Berea, and the date and place of death.

Faculty & Staff

Dr. H. Wilmot Carter of Delray Beach, FL died September 2, 2007. He was a former meats program instructor at Berea College. Dr. Carter is survived by his sons, Jim Carter, Bill Carter, and Dick Carter.

Phil DeFeo, a Berea College trustee since 2005, died unexpectedly on November 29, 2007 in New York City. He had a distinguished 40-year career in the financial services industry, culminating in his appointment as chairman and chief executive officer of the Pacific Stock Exchange. A 1968 graduate of Iona College, Phil had a life-long love of music and was a vocalist, pianist, and clarinet player. He was a member of San Francisco's Bohemian Club for many years. He is survived by his wife, Ann, and his daughters Kimberly and Sarah.

Fannie Elizabeth Ruble Duerson of Berea, KY died August 27, 2007. She was retired from Food Service. Mrs. Duerson is survived by Clara R. King, her daughter, and Jack Lee Duerson and Jeffrey K. Duerson, her sons.

Ruby Johnson of Berea, KY died October 17, 2007. She was a retired secretary for the laundry department for over 40 years prior to her retirement several years ago and a volunteer for the Berea Hospital Gift Shop. She is survived by Christine Robinson Rose, her sister.

Cecilia Ann Craft Wierwille of Berea, KY died October 22, 2007. She was a major part of the successes of the Berea College Men's Basketball program and most recently became the first woman inducted into the Mountaineer Men's Basketball Hall of Fame. She is survived by **Coach Roland R. Wierwille**, her husband of 45 years.

1920s

Lena Ellen Barr Banton, Cx'28, of Berea, KY, died September 1, 2007. She was the oldest living member of Berea Baptist Church up to the time of her death and she had been active in many church activities through the years. Lena is survived by **Dr. Jack C. Banton**, '57, her son, and **Irene Banton Irwin**, Cx'55, her daughter.

1930s

Dixie Christian Martin, '33, of Dothan, AL, died October 17, 2007. She was a retired teacher and is survived

by **Susan Christian Camp**, '33, her twin sister.

Louise McIntosh Morgan, '33, of Webster, NC, died August 20, 2007. She taught high school English and French, was Jackson County Citizen of the Year in 1979, and a prolific poet, editing *Jackson County Poetry and Poets*, published in 1978. She is survived by **Marie Morgan Runyon**, '37, her sister.

Frances Marksberry Abernathy, Cx'35, of Harrison, OH, died May 26, 2007. She was a retired teacher and a former Sunday School teacher. She is survived by Linda Starr Goodman, her daughter.

Sylvia Thomas Lovette, Cx'37, of Algodones, NM, died June 29, 2006.

Verlin W. Smith, Cx'37, of Oakton, VA, died July 25, 2007. He served in WWII, landing on Iwo Jima and left the Marines as a lieutenant colonel. He was a real estate developer who was deeply involved in the transformation of Fairfax County. He is survived by Maryann Donn Smith, his wife of 63 years.

Mildred Dink Allen, '38, of Oneida, NY, died June 17, 2007. She had been employed as a secretary and had served on various charitable organizations and volunteered in hospitals. She is survived by her four daughters.

Ruth Barlow Raper, '38, of Houston, TX, died September 6, 2007. She was a registered nurse, public health nurse, and Red Cross nurse when war was declared in 1941. Ruth was a WWII veteran serving in the South Pacific and wounded by enemy artillery fire while in New Guinea. She received the Bronze Star. Ruth is survived by Tom Houston, her husband.

Mary Jane Clark Oestmann, Cx'39, of Arlington Heights, IL, died May 13, 2007. She is survived by Chuck Oestmann, her husband.

1940s

James R. Deaton, '40, of Jackson, KY, died July 25, 2007. He taught agriculture in Breathitt County Schools and later was an area representative for Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Agency. James received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from University of Kentucky college of agriculture. He is survived by Florence Thompson Deaton, his wife of 73 years.

Julius "Knox" Singleton, '40, of McLean, VA, died September 3, 2007. He served for three years in WWII as a Navy radar officer and had been a Federal Aviation Administration electronics engineer. He was recognized for his volunteer community leadership wherever he lived and received many honors for his work. He is survived by Marjorie Christensen Singleton, his wife.

Mae Belle Singleton McKinney, '41, of Science Hill, KY, died August 13, 2007. She was a retired librarian from the Lincoln County school system after 30 years of service. Mae Belle is survived by Michael McKinney, her son.

Elizabeth "Libby" Kessel McFarland, '42, of Franksville, WI, died July 12, 2007. She was devoted to serving the Lord with her husband who was a pastor. Libby is survived by her three daughters, Mary Kay Geissinger, Judy Anderson, and Lynne Boutillier.



Phil DeFeo



Cecilia Ann Craft Wierwille



Julius "Knox" Singleton, '40

Harding Noblitt, '42, of Moorhead, MN, died September 18, 2007. He served in the Third Army in Europe in 1943-46 and was a retired political science and history professor of Concordia College. Harding is survived by Walter Noblitt, his son.

Rev. Marion Emory Parker, '42, of Portsmouth, OH, died August 22, 2007. During WWII he served as a chaplain with the rank of captain. He was a retired minister, who continued to do supply preaching and taught a weekly Bible class at a retirement center. He is survived by Ann Bostick Parker, his wife.

Ethel Shrader Tennant, '42, of Naples, FL, died July 28, 2007. She was an elementary school teacher, mother, and homemaker. She is survived by **Harry Tennant, '43**, her husband of 65 years.

L. Ada Wells, '42, of Napoleon, OH, died August 19, 2007. She was the director of Napoleon Public Library from 1953-82. She is survived by Eugene Wells, her brother.

Ruth Coffey Keller, '43, of Indianapolis, IN, died September 9, 2007. She was a registrar for General Motors as well as a teacher of elementary through college level. She is survived by Janette R. Marson, her daughter.

Homer Asbury Clontz, of Asheville, NC, died April 6, 2007. He was retired from Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company and American Enka Corporation. He is survived by **Marie Watkins Clontz, '44**, his wife of 59 years.

Dr. John J. Riddle, Cx'44, of Livingston, MI, died May 6, 2007. He is survived by Martha P. Riddle, his wife.

Edward W. Connell, Cx'45, of Rancho Viejo, TX, died September 15, 2007. He is survived by Marjorie E. Connell, his wife.

Jerome Rudberg of Sun City Center, FL, died July 8, 2007. He is survived by **Agnes Ratcliff Rudberg, '45**, his wife.

Mavis Engle Stewart, '47, of Hindman, KY, died October 29, 2006.

Joyce Jenkins Webb, Cx'47, of Charlotte, NC, died August 26, 2007. She was an executive secretary and a legal secretary. Joyce is survived by Ralph Webb, Jr., her husband.

Joan Riddlehoover Feland, Cx'48, of Richmond, VA, died August 17, 2007. She is survived by Margaret "Peg" R. Morris, her sister, and Earl Gregg Swem, her half-brother.

Col. Dayton Robinson, Jr., of Tuscaloosa, AL, died August 1, 2007. He served 30 years in the military. He was in WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War and flew hundreds of combat missions. He also received numerous medals. He is survived by **Helen Swanson Robinson, Cx'49**, his wife of 58 years.

1950s

Jean Hampton Powers Cochran, Cx'50, of St. Albans, WV, died August 11, 2007. She was employed as a secretary for 17 years. She is survived by her children, Bob Cochran, Galla Ann Gibeaut, Jean Kraus, and Greg Cochran.

Helen Pruitt Johnson McBrayer, Cx'50, of Morehead, KY, died September 4, 2007. She was a retired public schoolteacher and administrator for the Ohio school system. Helen was also a former missionary to the West Indies. She is survived by Jo Ann Ramey and Judy Hill, her sisters.

Hora Coefield Sabatino, '50, of Monroe, CT, died May 15, 2007. She had worked as an accounting manager for Union Carbide and initiated the volunteer income tax assistance program for the town of Monroe, for which she volunteered for ten years. She is survived by Angelo Sabatino, her husband of almost 53 years.

Jeannette Carr, '51, of Cincinnati, OH, died April 13, 2007. She was a retired bookkeeper for Cold Medal Products.

She is survived by **Joanne Carr DeWitt, '54**, her sister.

Lovie Lovette Silas, Cx'53, of St. Petersburg, FL, died August 23, 2007. She was a retired teacher. Lovie is survived by Bill Silas, her husband.

Louise Peace Carrell, '55, of Kingsport, TN, died August 13, 2007.

Bonnie Mims Powell, '58, of Winchester, KY, died August 7, 2007. She was a retired teacher. Bonnie is survived by one sister and three brothers.

Wilna Browning Herbaugh, '59, of Torrance, CA, died July 15, 2007. She was a teacher. Wilna is survived by Jim Herbaugh, her husband.

1960s

Eleanor Ruth Isaacs Helton, '61, of Oak Ridge, TN, died October 2, 2007. She was a retired school teacher. Eleanor is survived by Jim Helton, her husband.

Richard Boone, Cx'64, of Los Gatos, CA, died October 11, 2007. He is survived by **Margaret Davis Boone, '64**, his wife.

Bobby Hugh Robinson, '64, of Locust Grove, VA, died June 7, 2007. He was retired from USDA as administrator of cooperative state research and extension service and as associate administrator of the economic research service. Bobby is survived by Barbara Robinson, his wife.

Tom Rose, Cx'64, of Prestonsburg, KY, died October 13, 2007. He is survived by Linda Rose, his wife.

Patricia Cook Adams, '65, of Louisville, CO, died September 23, 2007. She provided care, a voice, and a loving environment for individuals with developmental disabilities. Pat was honored in *Who's Who in Nebraska 1976-77* for her work with the developmentally disabled and was given the Sertoma Award for Service to Youth in 1972. She is survived by her four daughters.

1970s

Clay Morrison, '70, of Chicago, IL, died July 29, 2007. He was a sculptor, collector, carpenter, and restorer. He is survived by Bruce Morrison, his brother, and Cindy Wagner, his sister.

1980s

Allison Blake Foddrell, '83, of Stuart, VA, died August 3, 2007. He was the owner of Foddrell Heating and Oil. He is survived by Charlier Foddrell, his wife.

1990s

Genn Alan Reed, Cx'95, of Louisville, KY, died September 6, 2007. He was a guard with Jefferson Special Police Security Company and a former General Electric employee. He is survived by Sella and Ed Kinglesmith, his mother and stepfather.

Leona Carol Bowlin Gary, '97, of Burkesville, KY, died April 5, 2007. She was a teacher. Leona is survived by Chris Gary, her husband.

College Officers

M. Elizabeth Culbreth, '64
Chair of the Board
Martin A. Coyle
Vice Chair of the Board
Larry D. Shinn
President
Carolyn R. Newton
Academic Vice President and Provost
Stephanie P. Browner
Dean of the Faculty
Gail W. Wolford
Vice President for Labor and Student Life
Steven D. Karcher
Vice President for Business and Administration
Jeffrey Amburgey
Vice President for Finance
William A. Laramée
Vice President for Alumni and College Relations
Judge B. Wilson II, '78
General Counsel and Secretary

College Trustees

M. Elizabeth Culbreth, Arlington VA
Chair of the Board
Martin A. Coyle, Sonoma CA
Vice Chair of the Board
Larry D. Shinn, Berea KY
President of the College
Vicky Allums, '79, Arlington VA
Charlotte F. Beason, '70, Louisville KY
Vance Blade, '82, Louisville KY
Nancy E. Blair, Stamford CT
Robert N. Compton, '60, Oak Ridge TN
Jan Hunley Crase, Cx'60, Somerset KY
Chella S. David, '61, Rochester MN
John E. Fleming, '66, Cincinnati OH
Glenn R. Fuhrman, New York NY
Jim Gray, Lexington KY
William R. Gruver, Eagles Mere PA
Heather Sturt Haaga, La Canada CA
Donna S. Hall, Lexington KY
Scott Jenkins, West Conshohocken PA
Shawn C.D. Johnson, Winchester MA
Lucinda Rawlings Laird, Louisville KY
Brenda Todd Larsen, Johns Island SC
Eugene Y. Lowe, Jr., Evanston IL
Elissa May-Plattner, Camp Springs KY
Harold L. Moses, '58, Nashville TN
James E. Nevels, Philadelphia PA
Douglas Orr, Black Mountain NC
William B. Richardson, Whitesburg KY
Charles Ward Seabury II, Westlake Village CA
David E. Shelton, '69, Wilkesboro NC
Mark Stitzer, Greenwich CT
Tyler S. Thompson, Crestwood KY
David O. Welch, '55, Ashland KY
Dawneda F. Williams, Wise VA
Drausin F. Wulsin, Cincinnati OH
Robert T. Yahng, '63, Larkspur CA

Honorary Trustees

Alberta Wood Allen, Bethesda MD
John Alden Auxier, '51, Knoxville TN
James T. Bartlett, Cleveland OH
Jack W. Buchanan, '46, Winchester KY
Frederic L. Dupree, Jr., V-12, '45, Lexington KY
Kate Ireland, Pemaquid ME
Juanita M. Kreps, '42, Durham NC
Alice R. Manicur, '54, Frostburg MD
Thomas H. Oliver, Beaufort SC
Kroger Pettengill, Cincinnati OH
David S. Swanson, Walpole ME
R. Elton White, '65, Sarasota FL

*“How firm a foundation for you has been laid,
By God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!....”*

We’re all a part of God’s body.

“How Firm a Foundation”

Join others who *continue to build*
Berea College’s foundation
through their gifts
of financial support.

Thank you for considering
a gift to the Berea Fund today.

Make a gift by going to
www.berea.edu
or by calling
1.800.457.9846

