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America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense, human rights invented America.


It’s been an exciting season to pull together a magazine centered on civic engagement. In the midst of one of the most interesting political seasons that I can recall, we’ve seen serious contenders for the presidency that have included an African American, a woman, a Mormon, a preacher, a former prisoner of war, and others. In my family den the nightly news is filled with politics traveling along simultaneous stations. For hours on Friday evening my husband and I have watched the pundits on educational TV and again during the network broadcasts on Sunday. We’ve come to think of our favorite political commentator as “George Snuffleupagus.”

Gee, I love educational television.

On a more serious note, this nation is engaged in very real dialog about the global impact of our decisions about how we live, how we work, how we support ourselves and each other. We are being challenged to think about ourselves as world citizens and our actions as having not only national, but international impact. The article “Voting for a Change” (p. 18) explores the ways in which classes in political science and communication encourage Berea students to become engaged in political action and to encourage others to vote.

The lessons that Bereans learn have a way of staying with them. Many have committed their lives to politics, to service, and to making a difference in the lives of others. Some have worked in politics in the public eye; others have worked behind the scenes. Bereans have been dedicated to leaving the world a better place than they first encountered.

Seeing the inequality of blacks and whites, Berea trustee David Welch, ’55, worked for civil rights in his hometown (p. 16). Bill Welsh, ’49, went from being the first National Student Association president to the head of the Democratic National Committee (p. 30). Law professor Bob Lawson, ’60, helped shape Kentucky’s penal code and now urges prison reform to reduce overcrowding (p. 20). Amy Hille, ’02, and Jennifer Prather, ’05, say that their Berea liberal arts training well-equipped them for work as staffers in a busy representative’s office in Washington, D.C. (p. 22).

Recent graduate David Coffman, ’06, spent the last two years helping the homeless in New Orleans try to make a fresh start (p. 13). Lawyer Hasan Davis, ’92, uses the school of hard knocks to support his current work with at-risk youth and with those who serve them (p. 34). Last, but not least, you’ll want to read about 50 years’ worth of Bereans involved in the Peace Corps working side by side in communities around the globe to change lives and make a lasting impact on the world in which we all live (p. 25).

The spring primaries may be over now, but the national debates are just getting started. Wherever you are, or wherever you will be come November, remember to vote. Check with city government to make sure you know that you are registered, that you know your voting district, and how to use the voting machines, or how to vote on an absentee ballot, if you need one.

Be thoughtful. Be a good citizen. Vote. Make a Difference.
Around Campus

Former Kentucky Senator Inspires Students

On February 21st, Berea College hosted former Kentucky Senator Georgia Montgomery Powers who, in 1964, was a key organizer of a statewide rally to support a law that made public accommodations readily available to everyone, regardless of race. This particular rally also brought the appearance of other major civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jackie Robinson. Three years later, Powers became the first black woman elected to the Kentucky Senate.

During her speech at Phelps Stokes Auditorium for the annual Carter G. Woodson convocation, Powers challenged members of the audience to find themselves before tackling larger social issues. “To be successful, we must know the right questions to ask and know the right answers to give. And we must also know ourselves,” she assured the audience. After giving a highly inspirational speech on past successes in the pursuit of racial equality and the need to remain steadfast in its pursuit, Powers proclaimed, “The most important thing[s] we can do [are] to remember the past, examine the present, and plan the future.”

Civil War Papers Sent to Hutchins Library

Nearly 400 personal papers of Civil War Brigadier General Mahlon D. Manson now reside in Special Collections at Hutchins Library. Manson served in the Mexican-American War and joined the Union army in 1860, acting as field commander at the Battle of Richmond August 29-30, 1862. After the war, he returned home to Indiana where he served as a U.S. Representative, state auditor, and lieutenant governor.

Laura Manson of Dade City, Florida, Manson’s great-great-granddaughter, donated the documents to the Battle of Richmond Association (BORA). She also gave BORA Manson’s saber, pistol, footlocker, field table, and other personal items that will be displayed at the Battle of Richmond Museum. BORA director Paul Rominger, ’67, worked with College archivist Shannon Wilson to catalogue and photograph the papers.

Boone Tavern Update

The first phase of renovations at Berea College’s Boone Tavern Hotel was completed on schedule and the hotel reopened May 1st. Diners enjoyed meals prepared in the newly redesigned and efficient kitchen. A new, larger elevator with an increased capacity transports guests to their rooms and can accommodate emergency equipment. During 2008, Boone Tavern will continue to accommodate travelers. Guest rooms will be renovated in alternating sections. Existing student-made furniture is being refinished and new furniture is being made by Berea College Woodcraft. In early 2009, the Hotel will again close to renovate its first floor lounges and public areas. A fully renovated Boone Tavern will be prepared for a grand renovation celebration in early 2009—the Hotel’s centennial year.

Senator Georgia Powers speaks with students and faculty after convocation.

Boone Tavern reopened after its initial phase of renovation.

(Left to right) Shannon Wilson, Special Collections & Archives; Paul Rominger, Madison County Civil War Roundtable; and Phillip Seyfrit, Madison County Historical Properties. Relics include Union General Mahlon Manson’s pistol, sabre, and dispatch box.
Unity Banquet Brings Together Bereans

President Shinn opened the 12th annual Berea College Unity Banquet by saying that it is “our duty to be the champions of change in this world.” Theatre major CeDarian Crawford, '10, introduced selected student speakers who quoted moving passages from historical leaders and activists. Erica Jackson, '09, sang “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” the Berea College step team performed, and students Kendrick Burris, '09, Tia Davis-Fowler, '11, and Anna Hoone, '08, showcased original poetry and music.

Keynote speaker Attica Scott, an advocate for Kentucky Jobs with Justice, is a champion of change and supports the struggle for social justice through activism. “Social justice,” she said, “is organizing that is led by people who are working to control their own lives and redistribute power, wealth, and resources.” Scott said it is our job to be champions of change and quoted author Marianne Williamson: “We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It’s not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

King’s Leadership Remembered

In January, the campus commemorated the life of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Stacey Floyd-Thomas, an ordained pastoral counselor, associate professor of ethics, and the director of Black Church Studies at Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University, led a community worship service. Community members marched from the steps of Union Church to the entrance of the city government offices.

Dr. Juan Floyd-Thomas, husband of Dr. Stacey Floyd-Thomas, spoke at the annual convocation on the topic “There Are No Children Here: How Young People Contributed to the Civil Rights Movement.” He spoke of the bravery of youth who participated in the efforts to gain freedoms. “Although most of the credit for the Brown vs. Board of Education case went to the legal prowess of the lawyers, much of it should go to the young African American children,” he said. The speaker is an associate professor of history at Texas Christian University and the author of numerous articles, journal essays, and encyclopedia entries.

Berea students participated in the annual MLK orator competition, calling for continued awareness and vigilance in the pursuit of civil rights. Nina Yarbrough, '09, took first place, followed by Charles Badger, '10, Triston Jones, '10, and J. Anthony Holbert, '09. Dr. Carter G. Woodson Academic and Interracial Education Awards were given to Tia Davis-Fowler, '11, Peter Aloys, '10, Tuyet Nguyen, '08, and Rachel Saunders, '08. The Dr. Cleo Charles and Rosa Charles Student Development Awards given for outstanding leadership went to Victoria Wreh, '10, Christopher Perkins, '10, and Erinn Horton, '08.
**Heard Around Campus**

“Sometimes we underestimate communities. I think it’s always possible to find community support for people who are fighting for justice. You can’t win any kind of labor movement without community support.”

– Anne Lewis, filmmaker, *Morristown in the Air and Sun*, Appalachian Center, February 2008

“Domestic violence is the worst thing a woman could experience. The feelings of worthlessness stay with women long after their injuries have actually healed.”

– Dr. Cristina Alcalde, “Place, Race, and Resistance in Women’s Experiences of Intimate Violence: Stories from Peru,” *Peanut Butter and Gender*, February 2008

“Energy policy is playing nuclear and coal (energies) against each other. Both are a result of unsustainable practices and both produce waste we can’t live with... The decisions we make in the next 10 years will determine the trajectory of the outcome.”


“We cannot proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ with marketing ideas or with capitalist concepts.”


**Bereans Gather for Vigil**

On March 19th, Berea College students, staff, and faculty gathered with community members at Union Church for a solemn vigil marking the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq. The memorial and vigil were sponsored by the peace and social justice program and the Campus Christian Center.

Bluegrass musician and singer Ashley Long, ’08, opened with the song, “Let There Be Peace on Earth.” President Larry Shinn offered his support, saying that he wanted to “reflect on the casualties of the war” that included the survivors and returning soldiers, many of whom suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Associate professor Stephen Pulsford and two international students read the names of Kentucky’s Iraq war causalities, noting that reading the names of every American and Iraqi fatality would have taken many hours. Associate professor Meta Mendel-Reyes reflected on those who lost their lives to the war, asking “What might their lives have been if they had not been killed?” The vigil closed with the song “We Shall Overcome.”

Dr. Michael Rivage-Seul, director of the peace and social justice studies program, praised the event as “inspiring and moving.”

**Show Your Berea Pride!**

Kentucky alumni will never be far from “Berea Beloved.” Due to advances in print technology, it’s now possible to purchase distinctive Berea College car license plates. The new plates incorporate Berea’s signature classroom building, Draper Hall, which is part of the Berea skyline and a College and community landmark. Plates cost $44 upon issue, and $10 of the cost contributes toward student scholarships. Renewal is $31 in subsequent years. College plates must be purchased through the Madison County Clerk’s office at the main office in Richmond, Kentucky, or at Berea City Hall.

**Forensic Team Excels**

The Berea College Speech and Debate Team fared well at the Kentucky Forensic Association’s state tournament. The team was the third place school in debate and individual event sweepstakes. Some individual events had as many as 40 competitors. Bereans picked up two 1st place finishes, one 2nd, one 3rd, one 4th, three 5th, two 6th, and one 7th place finish through the efforts of Lacey Gresham, ’11, Monica Johnson, ’08, Lorena Luna, ’10, Chris Moore, ’09, Eric Moore, ’10, Tuyet Nguyen, ’08, Stephanie Radford, ’10, and Kate Ruddle, ’10.

Debate team members: First row, front to back: Tuyet Nguyen, Kate Ruddle, Lorena Luna, Monica Johnson; 2nd row, front to back: Chris Moore, Stephanie Radford, Eric Moore
Tibetan Art Brings Prayers for Peace

The Olympic Flame passes nowhere near Berea College on its long trek to Beijing, but the issue of Tibetan freedom from China burned brightly during one week in March that coincided with a recent visit from 11 Buddhist monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery in India. The visit was part of a global goodwill tour. At least 29 students have attended Berea through a program established in 1988 by former President John Stephenson and the Dalai Lama, Tibet’s spiritual leader.

The monks spent a week creating colorful meditative art called *dul-tson-kyil-khor*, which means “mandala of colored powders.” The traditional artistic process, which involves painstakingly placing millions of grains of sand into geometric shapes, grain by grain, is considered a healing process. The ancient spiritual symbols that appear in vivid color represent the earth and all inhabitants. As part of a convocation on the Tibetan arts, the monks displayed other aspects of their culture that included music, chanting, and dance in elaborate costumes to please the good spirits and frighten away bad spirits. They spoke of healing and peace, emphasizing their point with the traditional Dance of the Snow Lion, unfurling a banner for World Peace.

Mini-Grant Winners Look to Change Campus

This spring, a staff member, a student, and a technology and industrial arts professor received ESE sustainability mini-grants. Jeff Hudson, Micah Johnson, ’08, and Dr. Ron Spangler, ’70, set forth innovative projects to tackle problems related to campus sustainability.

Landscape specialist Jeff Hudson proposed planting a culinary garden, a “corridor garden,” and native prairie green spaces to beautify the campus. The projects will demonstrate the benefits of sustainable horticulture and provide options for maintaining a better image of the surrounding landscape. The green space and corridor garden would be undertaken on the road between the local high school and the Berea farm. The culinary garden will be located on the Alumni patio outside the dining hall.

Sustainability major Micah Johnson plans to supply parts of the campus with low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators. He expects the water usage in these buildings to be reduced by at least 20 percent, as will the cost of such an important utility. Most of the residence halls have already been equipped with faucet aerators, which also contribute to water conservation on campus.

Associate professor Ron Spangler’s project focuses on water usage in lab activities around campus, including such departments as agriculture, chemistry, and nursing. His study examines how much hot water is being used in these various departments and will focus on ways to limit consumption.

Trio Moves Ahead in College Theatre Festival Competition

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts celebrated awards and scholarship recipients and finalists as part of the 40th annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), in Clemson, South Carolina, April 14-20. Theatre faculty and external reviewers selected 18 students to attend the festival to showcase their talents, to be considered for and to receive scholarships and awards, and to participate in master classes with professional artists in their field.

After competing at the festival, music major Paul Rowland, ’10, and theatre major Thomas Usher, ’09, were selected as regional nominees for their sound design of the November 2007 production of Julius Caesar. Theatre major Christian Honce, ’10, was nominated to the national level in the short-play competition for his work, “Our Belongings.”
Rustic Cottage Bids Farewell

After a request for proposals to salvage and remove Rustic Cottage, the last wooden structure on campus was slated for removal at the end of May. Built in 1901, the cottage has housed nearly 20 departments, but the wear and tear of its long tenure has made it both unsuitable and dangerous for continued use. The campus master plan, which called for the removal of the old heat plant and utilities buildings, as well as the cottage, will turn the area into a green space dedicated to John G. Fee, the College founder.

Students Take Top Honors in National Debate

Students Beth Coleman, ’09, Lorena Luna, ’10, and Adam Sparks, ’10, won first place at Project Pericles’ National Debate for Democracy Conference in New York. They received a cash grand prize for Berea’s Debate for Democracy chapter to continue its work researching and organizing community forums about contemporary political issues. Their proposal topped 41 other proposals from 21 Periclean colleges and universities. As part of the competition, the students had to defend their legislative proposal on coal-to-liquid technology in a Congressional-style hearing that was very well received by attending legislators. The group plans to share their views with local environmental groups.

Kudos to Berea for Its Service to Appalachia

In March, Berea College was named to the 2007 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction. Only a few institutions achieve this annual federal award which bestows the highest recognition a college may receive for its innovative and effective volunteerism, service-learning, and civic engagement. The honor roll is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and this award is sponsored by the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, the USA Freedom Corps, and the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing, and Urban Development. President Larry Shinn said the honor acknowledges the College’s steadfast values of service and devotion to the Appalachian region.
Swimmers Make a Splash at National Competition


Wilson Joins Independent Baseball League

Ryan Wilson, ’07, recently signed a contract to play outfield with the River City Rascals professional baseball team. The Rascals, part of the independent Frontier League, are based in O’Fallon, Missouri. For four years the former physical education major from Williamstown, Kentucky played centerfield for the Mountaineers. As a senior, he was selected as an All-Conference player. Wilson finished Berea with three all-time career records in at-bats, triples, and total bases. He played 135 games for the College and finished with a batting average of .337.

Mountaineers Close a Fine Season

The Mountaineers, Berea’s men’s basketball team, fell just one game short of becoming the regional champion of the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Coach John Mills’ star was shining anyway, when he was named KIAC men’s basketball Coach of the Year. Forwards Jordan Samuels, ’08, and Charles Wandera, ’09, were named to the KIAC all-conference team.

Lady Mountaineers Climb the Heights Again

After defeating the #1 ranked Midway College in a high-scoring game, 121-101, Berea’s Lady Mountaineers became the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference women’s basketball champs. Berea had three players with 20-plus points in the contest: Kentuckians Ashley Howard, ’11, of Salyersville (25 points, 8 assists); Sa’de Mullins, ’10, of Elizabethtown, (24 points); and Annbruce Madden, ’10, of Lexington (21 points).

Forward Candy Walls, ’09, and guard Ashley Howard, ’11, both made the KIAC all-conference squad. This is the second consecutive year Walls made the team. This year during regular play, the Powell County, Kentucky native scored the 1,000th point of her career and seized her 500th rebound. Walls averages 26 points per game.

Howard led the conference in scoring with an average of 17.94 points per game, shooting 42.9 percent. Madden led the conference with an average of 4.56 assists per game.

For the third year in a row, the Lady Mountaineers advanced to the NAIA Division II national tournament, but fell to #1 ranked Morningside. Still it was a pretty good run for the basketball team. The team tops their division nationally with an average of 95 points per game. They closed their 2007-08 season with five #1 rankings in Division II play: #1 in offensive rebounds per game; #1 in offensive assists per game; #1 in scoring offense per game (94.344); #1 in steals per game (16.375); #1 in total rebounds (49.250), and #1 in three-point shots made per game (13.5).

At the conclusion of the NAIA Division II Women’s Basketball Championship Tournament, NAIA recognized two Berea student-athletes. Forward Sarah Hughes, ’09, a physical education major from London, Kentucky earned accolades as a Daktronics NAIA Division II women’s basketball-academic Scholar Athlete by maintaining a 3.50 grade point average or higher. Walls was named NAIA All-American Honorable Mention.
Eugene A. Woods
Elected to Berea Board of Trustees

Eugene Antonio Woods, chief executive officer of Saint Joseph Health System, was elected to the Berea College Board of Trustees in February. His six-year term begins immediately. Woods is CEO of Lexington-based Saint Joseph Health System, which includes seven healthcare facilities in central Kentucky, including those in Bardstown, London, Berea, and Mount Sterling, as well as three hospitals in Lexington. Part of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), a nonprofit health corporation based in Denver, the Kentucky system has 981 licensed beds, approximately 5,000 employees, and approximately 1,300 physicians.

Before moving to Kentucky, Woods held executive positions with hospitals in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Washington, D.C. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with dual master’s degrees in health administration and business. In 2006, Modern Healthcare named him one of the top 25 minority executives in the nation. In 2007, he received the Leadership Award presented by Medical News for his work with Saint Joseph HealthCare.

Walter Hyleck Honored with Retrospective Exhibit

Three ceramic exhibits were displayed in Rogers-Traylor Art Building this spring to honor ceramic artist and teacher Walter Hyleck, who held the endowed Morris B. Belknap, Jr. Professorship in Fine Arts since 1992 and founded the Ceramic Apprenticeship Program of Berea College Student Crafts in 1970. Hyleck retires this year.

The “Walter Hyleck Retrospective 1967-2008” featured selected works spanning his 40 years as an artist and educator. His art has been included in more than 250 national exhibitions. He has presented workshops and acted as a visiting artist at colleges, universities, and art centers in the U.S., Canada, Switzerland, and Jamaica.

The show that celebrated his legacy, “40 Years of Ceramics Leadership: the Ceramics Apprenticeship Program at Berea College,” featured juried works by 10 former resident potters and 26 former apprentices and art graduates.

Abdul Rifai Named “Distinguished”

Political science professor Abdul H. Rifai accepted the prestigious Distinguished Political Science Award from the Kentucky Political Science Association (KPSA) this spring.

KPSA only gives this particular honor when a political scientist delivers contributions deemed particularly outstanding. Dr. Rifai is only the ninth recipient of the award since its inception in 1962, and he is the second Berea College professor to win, the first being Dr. Louis Smith in 1991. His extensive work with the Saudi Embassy in the nation’s capitol earned him the recent accolade.

Rifai has been a speaker at many professional panels and national conferences, lecturing on a wide variety of political issues. Born in Lebanon, he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in public administration from the American University of Beirut. His other degrees include a master’s degree in government and social studies from Indiana University in Bloomington and a doctorate in international relations and organizations from the American University in Washington D.C. He has been a member of the faculty since 1966.

Campus Christian Center Welcomes Katie Basham

Katie Basham, '02, was recently appointed full-time coordinator of Inter-Faith programming and assistant director of the Campus Christian Center. In addition to her studies in philosophy and religion, Basham received her master’s from Lexington Theological Seminary.
Named For: Dr. Daniel Kimball Pearsons, a wealthy medical doctor from Chicago, made possible the brick residence hall. He first became interested in Berea College when President W.G. Frost paid him a visit in 1895. In 1909, Dr. Pearsons donated $25,000 to Berea College to build Pearsons Hall, which, at the time, was to be a four-story men’s residence hall. In a letter to President Frost concerning the funds, Dr. Pearsons wrote, “Go ahead and do your best. Now push and be ready.” Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Pearsons donated a great deal to Berea, in addition to various other colleges. He died in 1912, and with his death, Berea College lost a great benefactor.

History and Distinguishing Features: On June 10, 1909, the cornerstone (containing, among other things, a letter from Dr. Pearsons and various 1909 Berea publications) was laid; following that, construction of the hall was underway. The costs surpassed its original budget; the final expense was about $40,000. Built of red bricks made by students working at a brick yard at Dead Horse Knob, the structure included 53 rooms 10x15 feet that had electricity and steam heat. Four showers, one on each floor, served 118 students, with laundry rooms provided on two floors. The hall opened in the fall of 1910, at which time it was already crowded, housing 140 men. It did not become a female dorm until the fall of 1973.

Pearsons in the Past: Russ Walkup, ’59, lived in Pearsons when it was a male dorm. He recalls that in 1955, Thanksgiving coincided with Homecoming weekend. He and a few friends swiped a turkey from the poultry farm, brought it to the Pearsons Hall basement, cleaned it there, and stuffed the internal organs and feathers in a toilet. Though the turkey was cooked and enjoyed by Walkup and his friends, their antics clogged the sewer system, and caused quite an uproar. Despite an investigation, Walkup and his friends were not caught.

Mary Rush, ’07, lived in Pearsons from 2003-04 as a freshman. “We all lovingly referred to Pearsons as ‘The Ghetto,’” she says. “It was rundown. The ceiling in the basement was caving in, the furniture was old and worn, and you never knew what surprises you’d find in the kitchen cabinets!” All the same, as she fondly recalls, “I made great friends at Pearsons, and I couldn’t imagine spending my freshman year in any other dorm.”

Pearsons Today: Pearsons Hall is the most recently renovated residence hall at Berea College. It has been updated to contain more space, a new sprinkler system, air conditioning, an elevator, a new side-stairway enclosed in glass, new furniture, and inviting décor, bamboo floors, energy-saving automatic lights and sinks, and toilets that flush by using more air and less water. The wider hallways are handicap-accessible. These renovations cost over 4 million dollars to complete.

Year Built: 1909-10
Capacity: Approx. 118 students in 53 rooms
Student Population: Male from 1909-72; Female from 1973-present

By Erin Hay, ’11
This activist works in New Orleans and for nearly a year has called the streets of the Big Easy home. His apartment lies on the route of more than a dozen Mardi Gras parades. In February he revels in chatting with his parents about their adventures shoveling snow in Kentucky while soaking in the warm sun by his complex’s swimming pool, listening to the streetcar rocking along St. Charles Avenue, or to a blaring brass band’s impromptu parade. This may sound like paradise, but David spends most of his time in a different part of the city. He works for Second Harvest of Greater New Orleans and Acadia (GNOA), an organization that helps feed people in the region where Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailers, hand-painted street signs, and houses strewn with flotsam and jetsam confront him. David feels a special bond

David Coffman Offers Homeless a Hand Up

By Deb McIntyre, ’10

“A good ole Appalachian boy who is trying to change the world” is how David Coffman, ’06, describes himself.
with the hungry and homeless people that he encounters; he knows what it feels like to walk in their shoes.

For some Americans, a charity shelter, an abandoned house, a vehicle, or a couch in a friend’s basement serve as home. Food means survival – not a buffet – picked up here and there through a temporary job, a handout from a stranger, or a meal at a soup kitchen. Hygiene consists of a shower twice a week at the mission, washing up in the sink at the convenience store, and cleaning your clothes in a creek.

Some may believe that people who live like that are personally responsible for their condition. David does not accept this because he knows better. Raised in the mountains of Maryland, David was 14 when his mother quit her job and the family moved to Pennsylvania so that she could work on a bachelor’s degree. When David and his parents arrived, they were dismayed to find that affordable housing didn’t exist unless they were willing to wait on a list for five years. For about nine months the family lived in hotel rooms and in their car. “My parents were doing the right things,” he recalls. “How can someone who is following the rules be blamed for their hunger and homelessness?”

David dropped out of high school during that time, virtually teaching himself during his sophomore and junior year because “no one wants to go to school from a hotel room or the car you have been living in.” He eventually obtained his GED. College was a goal, but initially he dismissed Berea in his search, believing the offer of a tuition-free education had to have a “catch” of some sort. It wasn’t until he attended a Brushy Fork Institute training conference at the College that his doubts were erased.

“Berea was unlike any other place, and as a young person searching for home and identity, I knew I had found it at Berea.” David believes “some all-knowing force” guided his journey. He entered the College as a Bonner Scholar, one of approximately 1,500 students at 27 institutions of higher education who are provided with college scholarships by the Bonner Foundation. As Bonner Scholars these students engage in ongoing service work, developing the tools and knowledge necessary to make that work meaningful and long-lasting. David headed up a group of other volunteers in running the Madison County Boys and Girls Clubs of America after-school programs. Through the Bonner program, his ideas of community service were challenged and developed.

At Berea he developed an independent major in sustainable development, which he calls an “amalgamation of political science, sociology, economics, and environmental studies.” This combination has served him well. “I have been given the ability to understand two disciplines which rarely see eye to eye.”

Two international experiences that David undertook while attending Berea were combined with his classroom and labor experiences to broaden his concept of sustainable economic reform. In Iceland he studied the hydrogen economy and in Curitiba, Brazil, he explored multinational culture and innovative sustainability practices. These trips were life-changing. “They introduced me to the idea that meaningful social change is possible and that a sustainable, equitable, and enjoyable world can be created to allow all human beings to develop to their full potential.”

David’s enthusiastic idealism motivated Betty Hibler, then associate director of the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service (CELTS), to “persistently persuade” him to apply for the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program, which is a 12-month leadership development opportunity. After being accepted, David, like all Emerson Hunger Fellows, was assigned to both a policy site and to a separate field site. At each location he worked with agencies on the problem of homelessness and hunger. David spent the first six months of the program in New Orleans, arriving a year after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the region. There, he worked with Second Harvest GNOA to map its agency locations before and after the storms, and he created

“We can realize change is possible if we
a document that recorded the history of the food bank and how the agency responded. He also created a disaster manual and a Hunger Free Community Report still in use by the agency.

David’s opinion of the relationship between food banks and the government changed while working amid the rubble. “Hearing the stories of the food bank clients and seeing the ineffectual work of FEMA, I lost a great deal of faith in the government to help those in need.” He realized that the current system, which offers handouts, often perpetuates the problem and keeps people in poverty. He attributes this attitude to his own personal experience.

“All anyone wants is to feel as though they are part of the community. What cities need to focus on is getting homes for homeless people. It is far too simple and logical for many to realize, but this solution is the way.”

After working in New Orleans for six months, David spent the following six months in Washington, D.C. with the National Coalition for the Homeless. While there, he learned how government tries to deal with these problems. “I got to interact with people who want to help the hungry and people living in poverty, and to understand their motivations and how it all works together.”

David chronicled attacks on the homeless as part of an ongoing project designed to include homeless status in hate crimes legislation. The change would mete out harsher punishments for perpetrators and assure victims that they are a valued part of society. According to David, some cities have passed laws that essentially make it a crime to be homeless. Many have ordinances against lying down in parks or sitting on sidewalks – all ordinances designed to get the homeless off the streets. Las Vegas, for example, has made it unlawful in certain city parks to share a meal with someone whom the “average person would describe as eligible to receive public assistance.”

David says laws like this send “a message to the collective psyche of a community, and basically, it gives permission for people to treat homeless people as less than human.”

The information went into a nationwide annual list of “20 Meanest Cities.” David and his colleagues hope that the list serves as a wake-up call for cities to see the need to attack the problem of homelessness rather than to see the problem as homeless people. Laws that make vagrancy a crime give poor people a criminal record that can keep them from getting future public assistance. A correlation exists between these cities, many of which are in the Southwest, and the number of crimes against the homeless.

David also got involved with “You Don’t Need a Home to Vote,” a project to encourage voter registration for those without a traditional residence. Many people don’t realize it, but a person cannot be denied the right to vote because they lack an address in a traditional household. Homeless people may register to vote by stating their address as that of a particular park, bridge, or stoop.

David has seen the voting homeless gain clout with politicians. The National Coalition for the Homeless persuaded social service agencies to register people and urge them to vote. “If all the low-income and homeless individuals would be given the opportunity to realize they have the power to change the system, I shudder to think of the changes that could occur from this.”

After his Emerson Hunger Fellowship ended, David returned to Second Harvest to become Community Food Security Coordinator. He coordinates an analysis of the food system in Southern Louisiana, documenting where food comes from, where it is sold, and what gaps occur in the current system. LeMel Jones, Second Harvest’s chief program officer, says the Berean’s eagerness to come to the area humbled her. “From the moment David arrived, he dedicated 100 percent to every activity, task, and relationship he encountered. It is a pleasure to see this young leader energize others about the efforts of ending hunger in a more holistic fashion.”

David wishes to share a food bank employee’s statement that he feels epitomizes the thoughts of the people he works with and for in New Orleans: “Do something, just please don’t forget about us.” He has been in the city long enough to see that even with limited outside help, the people of the region have revived their neighborhoods by providing food through community gardens and farmer’s markets. Once again they sit down at restaurants and at family tables to enjoy the food for which the region is famous.

“There truly exists an opportunity here for a young idealist (like myself) to work to make this a reality, to help rebuild a liveable city. The great thing is that many envision this amazing future as well,” he says. “We can realize change is possible if we work towards the world we want to see.”

work towards the world we want to see.”
Ashland was more diverse than many Kentucky towns of the Depression era, and David Welch, ’55, recalls growing up among Jewish families and playing with African American children. Schools, though, were segregated, as was the public pool. African American children were allowed to swim there only one day a month—the day before the pool was cleaned. A perceptive child, David was troubled about that and wondered why those same children walked past his home to go to a different school. Early on, he developed a strong sense of justice and a determination to set things right.

David was just 16 when his father died. Before his death, John Welch advised his son to contact a local Berea alumnus, an Ashland attorney, when it was time to think about college. Filled with trepidation, David went to see the lawyer. “I was scared to death,” he says. “I had never been in a law office.” The attorney agreed to help him gain admission to Berea by writing a letter on his behalf.

At 16, David hitchhiked from Ashland to Berea for two days of placement exams. He settled comfortably into life at Berea College. He met Joyce Loy, ’54 (who would become his wife of more than 50 years), joined the debate team, and acted in theatre productions. In his senior year, David served as Student Association president.

Classmate John Harris, ’55, knew David in a way most Bereans do not—as something of an adversary. Harris was editor of The Pinnacle during David’s term as Student Association president, and their positions occasionally put the two at odds. Harris remembers an incident when The Pinnacle, strapped for cash, began running advertisements for cigarettes. The Student Association summoned Harris to answer questions, deemed the ads inappropriate, and directed The Pinnacle to stop running them.

By Mindy Townsend and Phyllis Hughes, ’66
At the end of the day, “We were still friends,” Harris says. “It was the issues that we fought about.” Welch, though, remembers his being referred to editorially as an “embryonic dictator,” good preparation for his subsequent civil rights activities.

The 1950s were years of upheaval for Berea College and the nation. In Kentucky, the infamous Day Law (which required segregated education) was amended, and Berea forged ahead with reintegration in 1950.

David says the attitude toward reintegration in most places was one of reluctant compliance and “making do with a bad situation.” Berea College, however, celebrated reintegration, although the public was not always so understanding. David remembers that Berea’s athletic teams were sometimes turned away from restaurants in the region, experiences that brought the students closer together. “The strength of that camaraderie in the face of rejection in public accommodations, combined with true friendships, caused us all to celebrate,” David says.

Berea was not immune to the difficulties of reintegration. Some popular student hangouts on the College Square refused to serve African Americans. David called on President Francis Hutchins, pointing out that the College held the lease for many College Square businesses. The stores integrated without incident. It was the beginning of David’s career of intervening on behalf of others.

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David Welch joined other dignitaries on stage during the 2005 commencement.

After law school, David, Joyce, and their first child came back to Ashland to live and work. “Berea instilled in us that it was important to come back to the region,” he says. In 1964, the late Galen Martin, ’51, Berea alumnus and then executive director of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission, asked David to work with the Commission. He served for 26 years, including 10 years as the chair, conducting hearings around Kentucky when discrimination was suspected. “It just opened Kentucky up,” he says, recalling one early case that eerily mimicked his childhood memories. An African American Vietnam War veteran returned home and was denied admission to the city-owned swimming pool. The Commission found in favor of the veteran.

David served as Ashland’s city attorney, and later, as mayor. During his tenure, the city saw first-time appointments of African Americans as police officers and women as firefighters, as well as an African American director of personnel for the city. David also worked to establish a human rights commission, which he has called the “conscience of the community,” and an affirmative action program. Affirmative action, he says, has resulted in “all city employees understanding their rights and the significance of working with persons of color.”

David’s and Joyce’s respect for “all peoples of the earth,” is what, in part, led them to establish the David and Joyce Welch Study Abroad Scholarship. This is just one way they demonstrate their deep commitment to Berea’s current students. The College recognized their Berea service by presenting Alumni Loyalty Awards to both David and Joyce in 1994.

First elected to the College’s Board of Trustees in 1986, David now serves on four committees, including chairing the Buildings and Grounds Committee. His recent work with that committee’s recommendation to renovate Boone Tavern causes David to chuckle, as he was fired from a labor position there for whistling on the job. Despite his serious career, David today is the same lighthearted soul caught whistling at Boone Tavern. “While David’s commitment to justice is profound, so is his determination to lighten the mood, often with a terrible, perfect pun when the discussion gets too serious,” says Libby Culbret, ’64, chair of Berea’s Board of Trustees.

A determined sense of justice and a keen wit are apt descriptors for David Welch, who hitchhiked to Berea to take his admissions tests, flew to Harvard with a scholarship in his pocket, and returned to Ashland with a law degree in hand—more insistent than ever on setting things right.
Think of California in the early 1970s. Do you see barefoot young folks with flowers in their hair, doing some “California Dreaming?” At that time, Dr. Meta Mendel-Reyes was in California, but she wasn’t content with just dreaming. Instead, Berea’s director of CELTS (Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service) was engaged in political action with the United Farm Workers (UFW).

“A bunch of us worked with farm laborers to get them basic rights like a decent wage, drinking water in the fields, and the elimination of child labor.” Meta says. At the time, farm workers were not allowed to organize, but through the efforts of the UFW, the Agricultural Relations Act gave the workers the opportunity to organize, form unions, and be their own advocates. The passage of that act felt empowering. “For me, it helped restore my faith in the government. For the farm workers, it was a real message that democracy and the government could work for them, too.”

Since Meta joined the Berea faculty in 2000 as a general studies professor, she has taught the course Women and African Americans in Politics during general election years. “The challenge of democratic education in the United States is to teach young people not merely the skills of citizenship, but also its value.” Meta sees her mission as engaging students in political action and service learning. The last time she taught the course, her students worked with Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, a grassroots organization. Students assisted the group in getting a bill passed that would restore voting rights to Kentuckians who committed felonies but who had served their sentences and completed probation. Kentucky is one of only three states that still deny citizens this right.

The class interviewed and created DVDs of the stories of several people. Their stories were presented and the finished products aired on the internet. “It enlightened many students to interact with people who were really fighting for the right to vote. I think they really had to think about ‘What is the vote? Why does it matter?’”

Debra Bulluck, ’09, took Meta’s class. Her team told the story of Robert Jones, a 30-something Navy veteran, who holds a degree from Kentucky State University, is working on his master’s degree, and dreams of being a lawyer. A felony he committed at age 21, and for which he served no jail time, has kept him from voting for over 10 years. From his perspective, the Navy veteran wondered why he was able to die...
To vote is like the payment of a debt – a duty never to be neglected, if its performance is possible.

–Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes

for his country, but not to vote. The bill passed the House 80-14 in April 2008, but the vote came too late in the session to be heard by the Senate.

“The class was a great learning experience for me,” Debra says, “not only in terms of course material, but also the diverse group of people in my class and the variety of interesting viewpoints. Dr. Mendel-Reyes enabled us to think critically about the world of politics and examine the realities that minority groups experience.”

Lorena Luna, ’10, took a political communication class and as part of the class, she registered students to vote and answered their questions. Though many students are registered to vote in other states, they were unaware of the need for casting absentee ballots. Others admitted not knowing the political stances of the various candidates. Lorena advised her peers to keep themselves informed through the media about the dates of elections, the process, and the candidates’ views.

Lorena sees more students becoming increasingly interested in national politics as the November elections draw near, and that encourages her. What bothers her is when she hears a student say she does not care about politics because she doesn’t believe in the process. “It is not about believing or not,” Lorena emphasizes. “It is about what you can do in order to change (the process). It is about recognizing that we all should care because whoever gets elected, whether we supported that candidate or not, is going to have an impact on the American people and on many others around the world.”

The impact of leaders’ decisions is very real to Peter Thiong, ’08. He spent the first two decades of his life in war-torn Sudan. He lost most of his family and spent many years living in a refugee camp before being allowed to enter the United States in 2001. Peter graduates from Berea in May and already has a job and an apartment in Louisville, Kentucky. Before leaving Berea, however, he took care of an important task – becoming a United States citizen so that he could vote.

“When I was in Sudan, I never heard my parents talking of elections because the Sudanese government was dictatorial, and still is. It will be a great transformation for me to cast my vote in the upcoming election,” says Peter. “Young people should care about voting because they will inherit the country and correct any mistakes made by previous administrations. Freedom to choose the American president is a tremendous responsibility and source of pride to me. When I cast my vote, I will believe that my one vote will help determine the best candidate to lead the American people.”

Meta says students can get involved with politics in many ways that do not directly involve voting. But, she says, once they do vote, they begin to see the need for more systematic change. Getting involved with an organization, like Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, or attending a rally, or protesting the unethical treatment of other people are some of the ways students can make a difference. “By getting involved with politics, I think you see the effect of your own power and you get a lot of excitement. And it’s very satisfying.”
For those in Kentucky’s correctional facilities, this is a condition of daily life. During the 1980s, the state’s prison system required a personal space allotment of 60 square feet per inmate, which has since fallen to a mere 40 square feet.

In drab cinderblock “pods,” or confinement areas, inmates divide space with 10 to 30 other bodies. Between these men, there is one toilet and one sink. While some enjoy the luxury of sleeping on cots, others put their mattresses on metal benches or the floor. All inmates are issued a thin rubber sleeping mat, often in disrepair. Whatever body fluids and blood-borne pathogens enter these pads are transferred to other inmates, bringing unexpected illness.

“If you can’t imagine what 40 square feet is, stretch your arms out in a circle, and that’s 40 square feet.”

Dr. Robert Lawson, ’60, is concerned about these conditions caused by the burgeoning influx of convicted criminals and finding a place to house and maintain them. To inspect the living conditions of inmates, Lawson visited 9 jails, 7 of which he described as “shameful.” In 2007 alone, state prison officials faced a 12 percent population increase that caused the corrections department to dip nearly 25 million dollars into the red. According to Lawson, “Of the 2,400 additional inmates,
2,000 of them ended back in the jail system, serving lengthy sentences in very tightly confined facilities.”

Although Kentucky owns 13 prisons and utilizes 3 private prisons, a third or more of its inmates are overflowing into county jails. Unlike most prisons, jails do not provide conditions that stimulate a sense of productive living. “Jails weren’t designed for long-term confinement. It’s a life of idleness, and that kind of existence over an extended period of time cannot be helpful; it’s got to be harmful.” While prisons often offer exercise facilities, labor and learning areas, and a centralized dining hall separate from living quarters, jails do not. The problem, Lawson says, is the public belief that tough crime laws and longer sentences can solve our problems. They cannot. “That is what we’ve been doing for 30 years and it doesn’t work.”

Within his first two years on faculty at the University of Kentucky School of Law, Lawson shouldered the work of a major legal reform effort that had been undertaken by the state itself. In 1968, he and other field professionals tackled the revision of Kentucky’s criminal laws. These revisions spent 2 years before the state’s General Assembly, eventually culminating in 1974 with the establishment of the Kentucky Penal Code Act. Yet, since his initial reform efforts, Lawson has seen a drastic shift in terms of criminal prosecution and the legal penalties that follow.

When the Kentucky Penal Code was first enacted, the state’s prison population totaled around 3,000. Within a 30-year period, taxpayer monies now support 22,500 inmates at an average annual cost of $20,000 per inmate. While more money funnels into maintaining the state’s corrections system, most inmates are crowded into overpopulated facilities.

Time no longer exists in many prisons and jails, and every moment blurs into one long day. Fluorescent lights give a dull glow and are never turned off, only dimmed. There are no windows, and personal space is limited; privacy nonexistent. Affixed to walls with flaking paint, television sets blare all day long and much of the night, offering what little distraction is possible from otherwise unbearable living conditions. They sleep on cold concrete platforms and are cut off from any social interaction.

Isolation is hard and cruel, but not as cruel as the pods.

For probation officers during the 1970s, a typical caseload consisted of 20 individuals. However, these numbers can now average as high as 136 cases per probation officer. When asked what services are being provided for those returning to society, one officer stated that he is able to do nothing other than administer routine drug testing. Likewise, Lawson believes that the problem exists not in an individual’s failure to conform to societal expectations, but rather, the lack of drug, alcohol, and psychological counseling that these individuals encounter upon exiting the corrections system. “They get out with no reentry system to help them. It’s overextended. They slide back into the same old habits: either commit another offense, or fail a drug test, and rotate right back into the same institution. By the time they’ve been out of the system for three years, 66 percent of them are back in prison.”

To cut back on recidivism, Lawson is a firm believer in education. The average reading level of Kentucky’s inmates is only at a sixth-grade level, which means that some inmates read at lower levels or not at all. He would like to see inmates required to attend classes and maintain labor assignments while incarcerated. At present, “They’re getting very little in the way of what I would call corrective measures,” says Lawson. “We’re doing practically nothing for them.” This results from a lack of funding due to an already overburdened system. “The resources are being spent just locking them up, providing housing, food, clothing, and guarding them.” Moreover, with close to 80 percent of inmates suffering from drug and alcohol abuse, only 10 percent are receiving treatment. The corrections system simply cannot sustain itself with such a large inmate population, and thus, is unable to offer extended assistance.

To deal with the influx and burden on resources, in 2002, then-Governor Paul Patton released approximately 1,000 inmates from Kentucky’s prisons and jails. This decision was made, according to Lawson, “because the state couldn’t pay for the housing of inmates.” He goes on to note, “I could see that we’d changed these laws so much that we made the penalties for practically every offense harsher than they had ever been before. The country itself has gone mad in terms of incarcerating its citizens.” Indeed, incarcerations in the United States have increased more than 600 percent since Lawson drafted the Kentucky Penal Code. This is a shift from about 300,000 inmates in 1968 to more than 2½ million people today – the staggering equivalent of approximately 1 in 131 Americans behind bars.

Admitting the daunting nature of the task that the American legal system has ahead of itself, Lawson believes, “We’ve been thirty years getting ourselves into this problem, and we’re not going to get out of it very quickly. It’s going to be a long, hard road.”
In the Trenches on The Hill

(It’s Sort of Like West Wing, But with More Paperwork)

By Doug McInnis
Recently, she scoured the proposed trade pact with Peru. “Reading through hundreds of pages of trade text is not easy. There’s a whole language for trade.”

Briefing Chandler can quickly turn into a very tough exam. “Congressman Chandler is a very smart man,” she says. “When he talks to his staff about the issues, he asks the most difficult questions.”

Such tasks amount to a lot of work, but hard work seldom produces quick results. With rare exception, the government moves slowly. “I call it a slow-moving beast,” says Jennifer. “It can take a long time for bills to become law.”

Other times, their work comes to nothing. “Most people who work on The Hill feel like they’re making a difference at some level,” says Amy. “It’s a service, because we’re not doing this for the money. But sometimes, it can be disheartening because a lot of people put a lot of time and work into something that goes nowhere.”

When Congress is in session, Washington runs in high gear, and Congressional staffers may work 15-hour days, sometimes leaving at midnight. “The schedule lends itself to working through lunch, reading materials for work on the daily commute, staying at the office until late in the evening, and sometimes, even weekends,” says Jennifer. “Time management is a skill that every Hill staffer needs in order to stay afloat. Every day, we are inundated with requests from constituents and lobbyists. Every Hill staffer learns to process information quickly because there is always something else waiting on your to-do list.”

But there are, thankfully, periods when Congress vacates Washington, and staffers operate more or less on a 40-hour week. “This is a good time to take a vacation or go to the doctor,” Amy says.

In either mode, the skills gained through Berea’s labor program pay off. Because Berea students have to work as well as study, they learn early to use time well. Some work experience translates directly to staff jobs on the Hill. At Berea, Jennifer helped redesign the College’s web site. Later, she handled the redesign of Chandler’s site.

Washington does have its diversions, and this helps staffers cope with their workload. One diversion is the city’s Eastern Market, a food bazaar that has been around for more than a century. Another is the Smithsonian Institution. Both are favorite getaways for Amy. Jennifer jogs through Rock Creek Park and the National Zoo, both near her home in D.C.’s northwest sector. In spring, she loves to tend the tiny garden next to her house. “It is a small but important part of my year that reminds me of my more rural life in Kentucky,” she says.

The city also boasts fabulous restaurants, though these are usually out of reach of the cash-strapped budgets of congressional staffers, whose paychecks don’t stretch very far in high-cost Washington. They pour their money into rent because Washington has one of the nation’s most expensive housing markets. A one-bedroom apartment two blocks from the Capitol cost $1186 a month. Renting a house with four other staffers saves some money, but still costs nearly $700 a month per person.

The occasional free lunch would help stretch tight budgets, but conflict-of-interest regulations bar this. “It’s illegal for anybody to take you out to lunch,” says Amy. “The only thing we can go to are receptions where you can eat finger food. A lot of the younger staffers definitely take advantage of that.”

It is a fact of life that Washington has been on alert since September 11, 2001. “People who lived in D.C. before 9/11 say that the city has changed drastically,” Amy observes. “Streets are closed off and security is tight. To get into work, I have to go through a metal detector and put my bag through an x-ray machine.”

In at least one respect, this new sense of caution has helped to make Washington a safer place. It has spurred much tighter security in the city. The security is particularly tight in Amy’s neighborhood, two blocks from the Capitol. “Because of all the police, my apartment is in a very safe location,” she says. “But because of the location and the police, it can get loud. A few times a night, the police outside the building blare their sirens and raise and lower the barriers that are built into the street. Sometimes this happens at two in
the morning. Surely, this did not happen before 9/11.”

Periodic evacuations of the Capitol are another fact of life. Any perceived threat can trigger one. “I’ve been evacuated more times than I can count,” says Jennifer. One noteworthy evacuation occurred during Ronald Reagan’s funeral in 2004.

“I was standing outside on the Capitol’s West Front lawn waiting to see Reagan’s coffin come into the Capitol,” Amy recalled. “I looked up at the Capitol steps and saw about 15 police running down the stairs yelling at everyone to run. The police kept yelling and running. Over the police radios, someone heard ‘one minute to impact.’ That was probably the first and only time I’ve ever felt like I was running for my life. It turned out that then-Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher’s plane had drifted into restricted air space while flying to D.C. for the funeral.”

One thing that has not changed as a result of 9/11 is the city’s consuming appetite for politics; Washington is still a political junkie’s all-you-can-eat buffet. Often the feast goes on after the workday ends. For instance, on one January evening Amy baked a cake, and then took it to a friend’s birthday party, where the night’s entertainment consisted of watching the returns from the Iowa caucuses. “One of the great things about D.C. is that almost everyone is interested in politics.”

Yet sometimes, all the talk becomes too much. “You can overdose on politics,” says Amy. “Sometimes, when I go home on vacation, I don’t want to talk about it, because that’s all I do every day.”

It’s also possible to overdose on work. One necessary survival skill is the ability to carve out time for a life away from work. “Maintaining a sense of self is hard sometimes,” says Jennifer. “Remembering your goals, your values, where you came from, and your personal commitments – and sometimes just remembering to eat breakfast – are all things that require a balance of ‘me-time’ versus ‘them-time.’”
Corps Experience — Corps Values

By Liz Brown, ’11 and Normandi Ellis

May we walk a just walk, may we find a truer peace. May we hold the light for love in our hand.

—Deborah Payne, ’02

During his senior year at Berea College, Douglas Kelley, ’51, began corresponding with two Antioch College students and with a recent graduate from the University of Michigan. They had big ideas of ways to make a difference in the world.
Back in 1951, Kelley and colleagues hoped to recruit and place teachers and community workers to improve self-reliance, build community, and encourage mutual respect between first and third world countries. With the help of another Berea student, Galen Martin, ’51, Kelley and his friends founded the non-profit International Development Placement Association (IDPA). “We wanted people who would live and work closely with their host country co-workers,” he says.

Kelley had attended the Madison, Wisconsin convention of the National Student Association when Bill Welsh, ’49, became the first NSA president. At that convention he came into contact with experienced leaders of national youth and student organizations who became instrumental in helping the nascent IDPA gain initial funding from the Stringfellow Barr’s Foundation for World Government and laudatory endorsement from Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

Unfortunately, as Kelley later recalls, other program grantors were not as supportive. He recalls having been told by one foundation officer, “There simply aren’t enough young Americans wanting to do that kind of thing.” The IDPA was able to place 18 volunteers the first year, but faltered for lack of national funding.

Yet, for nearly a decade, the essential idea remained alive in various Congressional subcommittees until President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps as an innovative part of U.S. foreign policy in 1961. At that time, Kelley was a graduate student in political science at Harvard. He left to become the first Peace Corps community relations director, recruiting in 25 U.S. cities.

At last, in 1963, more than a decade after Kelley first organized IDPA, he found himself working in West Cameroon as a Peace Corps volunteer developing a craft cooperative for woodworkers, potters, and basket makers—modeled on the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild in Appalachia.

Nearly 50 years after the Peace Corps was created, its idealistic and committed American volunteers still devote two years of their lives in remote regions of the world to make a difference in the lives of strangers.

Before Doug Kelley had a chance to set foot in West Cameroon as a Peace Corps volunteer, John R. Skeese, ’60, (or Johnny, as he likes to be called) had already arrived. Johnny was among the first wave of Berea graduates to join the Peace Corps. “The second Berean to arrive,” he reminds us, “but the first to ride a motorcycle through Africa.” Among many retired Peace Corps volunteers, Johnny is considered “the Neil Armstrong of Peace Corps volunteers. He’s got almost rock star status,” says professor emeritus of sociology Dr. Tom Boyd.

Johnny’s passion for service in overseas communities started when he was drafted into the Army in the mid-1950s. In Germany he met people from many different walks of life and quickly became involved in wanting to help others. This interest came to the forefront when he returned from the Army and attended Berea College. Here, he met a Lebanese student who had been active in international workshops. Upon graduation he applied to The American Friends Service Committee (a Quaker organization) to work with others in Spain and Greece.

Following that experience, Johnny returned to Berea and learned of the Peace Corps from Dean Kenneth Thompson. Johnny applied...
hoping for a teaching position in Nigeria. Thinking his grades might be insufficient, he assumed his bid would be rejected and did not pursue the idea after applying. Several months later, the UCLA office called, asking if he was still interested. After training, he headed to Nigeria as a teacher from 1961-63. Because he had majored in physics and mathematics, he ended up teaching both subjects to the equivalent of high school seniors and first-year university students.

He eventually returned to his Appalachian roots to teach high school math and physics in Berea. At Kentucky chapter meetings of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV), many participants recall hearing Johnny tell amazing stories of motorcycling in and around Nigeria, culminating in a stay at Dr. Albert Schweitzer’s hospital in Gabon.

The RPCV is a group of people of all ages who have served in a variety of countries. Former sociology professor Thomas Boyd, an active member of the Kentucky chapter since he came to Berea in 1977, describes his experience as one of “taking action not just in America, but in the world. The Peace Corps did a lot for me.” As a “feckless young college grad” who joined the Corps in 1964, Boyd took part in one of the first training sessions at the University of New Mexico. His classes covered such training as Spanish language immersion and practical instruction in horseback riding, mountain trekking, and survival skills.

For two years Boyd served in Colombia as a recreation director for orphaned boys and worked with the daughters of imprisoned mothers. His activism, he says, “was a person-to-person thing.” Upon leaving the Peace Corps, Boyd returned to graduate studies, receiving a master’s degree in social studies from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague and a doctorate from Cambridge University in England.

In 1977, attracted by the ideals of a “working class college,” Boyd joined Berea’s faculty and brought his ideological activism to life for his students. Having worked in Colombia, Peru, Ghana, Zambia, and The People’s Republic of China, Boyd now turns his attention to social change in the rural communities of Appalachia. He and sociology professor Jill Bouma, an RPCV who taught math in Gabon, Africa from 1986-88, have encouraged Berea graduates to join the Peace Corps because “they want rural kids who know how to practice self-sufficiency.”

Ten years after gaining independence from Great Britain, the Malaysian people began overhauling the public education system. Marlene Payne, ’62, served in Kuala Lumpur from 1967-69, teaching educational psychology in a specialist institute for native teachers in training. Her students spoke three different languages: Tamil, Malay, and Chinese. The Peace Corps brought to her life, “a worldview and a wonderful network of friends from Asian cultures.” Other teaching experiences included work with disabled children and with a Head Start program in a nearby squatter’s village that had been built upon the refuse of Malaysian tin mines.

Marlene’s daughter, Deborah Payne, ’02, followed her mother and joined the Peace Corps. (Dr. John Payne, ’61, Deborah’s father, also has a long history as a medical missionary.) Currently, Deborah works in Uganda with the Katosi Women’s Development Trust near Lake Victoria. Katosi women flock to Peace Corps workshops to learn ways to improve the health of their families. A biology major, Deborah speaks enthusiastically about her work, not only helping to build latrines and improve water quality, but to build community networks. When she is able to travel to a computer in the city, Deborah busily pens articles for Australian and Indian media and writes grants for
encouraging of shared resources in developing countries. She feels honored to work with such a grassroots organization as the Katosi Women’s Development Trust, because she feels people at that level can truly make a difference. This May she was asked to make a poster presentation on the topic of changing sanitation practices in rural Uganda during the international Water Week conference in Stockholm. Her selection to present at the conference is indeed an acknowledgement of what a Peace Corps volunteer can accomplish.

Deborah is but one of a recent crop of Bereans who have worked or are working in the Peace Corps. Dr. Raelynn Deaton, ’95, never dreamed that she and James Martin, ’94, would end up in Papua New Guinea when she signed up for the Peace Corps, but when a spot became available, she thought, why not? Both she and James had attained their biology degrees at Berea and were eager to serve. “Papua New Guinea was a Mecca for anthropologists and biologists,” she explains, “so we felt lucky in that respect.” Surprisingly, Raelynn and James both began teaching English and math instead, working with students who wanted to go on to a university or become secondary teachers.

Papua New Guinea in 1997 was exciting, but it was also a dangerous place to live. She says her experience there during troubled times has made her more resilient. “We were on a bus once while in the capital during a near government coup. Our bus was overtaken by what we thought were rebels. They forced everyone off, except for us—the only two Americans. I’ve never in my life thought I was going to die except for that time,” Raelynn recalls. “It turned out that they were trying to help us get back to safety, and they made sure we were okay. It showed me that even amid turmoil there are really good people out there. Experiences like that really help you learn to not sweat the small stuff.”

Due to civil unrest, Raelynn and James were moved to the island of New Britain for their second year. There, she spent most of her time teaching high school math, but her volunteer service also included working side by side with many of her students, growing food in an experimental garden. They worked with such sustainable agricultural techniques as intercropping and composting. In that way, she brought in her other primary passion, botanical science.

Raelynn teaches and keeps a garden to this day. “My Peace Corps experience is engrained in my everyday life and in everything that I do.”

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She believes “Berea’s overall dedication to service” was one of the most valuable components of her education. The work ethic she learned as a student aided her immensely in Papua New Guinea. While she was living there, Raelynn recalls, “we actually got a letter from President Shinn telling us how proud he was of what we were doing.”

So What is the Peace Corps Really Like?

(Luke Keeler, ’06, recalls a visit in Paraguay. Telling such stories at RPCV meetings is part of the camaraderie.)

Night time rolled around and my hosts went to bed in their house. I was in another little house adjacent to theirs. It was about 8:45 when I crawled into bed. At about 9:00 I heard this noise like some animal crawling around on the ceiling, and it grew louder so I decided to get my flashlight. As I swung my legs over the bed to stand up, I felt lots of little stings on my lower legs and feet. I raced over to my bag, fumbling and looking for the flashlight. I turned it on and saw tons of ants were biting my legs. I looked around the floor, and there were, literally, thousands of ants everywhere.

I turned my light toward the ceiling where I first heard the noise and as my light passed over the wall I saw ants everywhere, crawling over everything. The floors, walls, and ceiling looked completely black with so many ants. It felt like something from a horror movie or that show Fear Factor.
While completing an internship at Save the Children her senior year, Gretchen Bolton, ’01, found a position with AmeriCorps*VISTA, an independent federal agency dubbed the “domestic Peace Corps.” The women’s studies major and political science minor decided when her AmeriCorps job ended to pursue a similar kind of work in the international arena. The Peace Corps was an obvious fit.

In Portland, Jamaica, Gretchen helped older, at-risk students of the community in Windsor Castle to develop literacy and computer skills. She helped adults in the community to develop small businesses.

Although her work was all business, she lightheartedly recalls the “struggle to escape the omnipresent reggae music and get used to consuming unpleasant manish water” (goat head soup). On a more serious note, she emphasizes that many American Peace Corps volunteers face a dilemma, which involves moving beyond being a tourist in a beautiful foreign land into becoming more fully engaged with the real community work to be done.

After her return, Gretchen joined the Kentucky RPCV chapter. “At the last dinner I attended,” she recalls, “I sat next to a woman who had served in Jamaica in the 1960s and who now lives in Richmond, Kentucky.” She says that the camaraderie of RPCVs often centers not only on shared memory, but on shared misery. “Third world living is often hard, but it always leaves a vivid impression that lasts a lifetime.”

Like Deborah Payne, psychology major Luke Keeler, ’06, who is currently in Peguahjo Loma, Paraguay for his second year, spends much of his time teaching community members about dental hygiene, sanitation, water-borne and air-borne diseases and parasites, and HIV/AIDS prevention. Although most wells are sanitary, he still finds a few wells that are left uncovered or that use contaminated buckets and ropes. His outreach includes everything from building latrines and fagons (brick ovens) to talking one-on-one and co-hosting a radio program.

Luke, the first Peace Corps volunteer in Peguahjo Loma, was at first thought to be a U.S. spy. Luke says “I would kind of joke and say, ‘Yes, I’m here to spy on just how much mandioca (cassava root), beans, and banana trees you grow.’” Ironically, he says, the main concern was that the United States had sent him there to steal “their clean and healthy drinking water.”

Because so much of his work involves community outreach, Luke relies on good communication skills. “I listen to people, and that is one thing that is definitely needed in this world.” When he completes his Peace Corps service he plans to return home and pursue a career in public health.

I raced to the ant-covered door, opened it and discovered thousands of ants searching the patio for food. I ran until I found a spot with no ants, where I frantically removed the ants that were biting me.

Wanting shelter for the night, I returned to my ant-covered bed and room. After a few minutes, the ants in one corner discovered a spider. Before I knew it, hundreds more arrived to completely cover the spider, pull it apart, and eat it. They communicated so fast it was amazing. I watched as they found more spiders and other food particles.

At 11 p.m. I noticed that the ants avoided a wet spot on the floor. I started pouring water on some to see what would happen. They drowned, so I started a war with them, pouring water on them and stepping on them, which kept me entertained for a long time. Finally, about 2 a.m., the ants began to clear the room. I was thankful because I was so tired. The family rose at 5 a.m., and so did I. They asked me how I slept, and I said, “Oh, just great.” Of course I couldn’t say anything. They were such a nice family and I knew I was going to be great friends with them, but I didn’t want to stay in their guest house again!
Bill Welsh, ’49, worked in Washington government circles during the administrations of seven presidents. Yet he says most of his career was the result of “accidents” that put him in the right place at the right time and acquainted him with the right people.

In 1938, at the impressionable age of 13, Bill Welsh took a trip to Europe with his aunt and uncle. As the family neared the German border of Austria, Bill witnessed Hitler’s troops crossing into the country for the annexation, amid cheers, salutes, and enthusiastic waving of the red and black Nazi flags. His aunt and uncle quickly changed their plans and headed for neutral Switzerland. Bill never forgot that lesson in the power of politics gone awry.

Five years later, in the fall of his sophomore year at Berea, Bill, then 19, put his education on hold and volunteered for the U.S. Army to help defeat Germany after Hitler declared war on America. Because he was interested in engineering, the Army sent him to South Dakota for special training. Soon, the escalating need for replacement troops in Europe changed his course. He shipped to Europe for infantry duty and crossed the English Channel in December of 1944, ostensibly to assist a replacement regiment in the Battle of the Bulge, but his ship was rerouted to the French Atlantic Coast where large pockets of German troops were nestled.

Bill had witnessed the Third Reich at the height of its might, and now he was on the coast of France to participate in its downfall.

It’s all in who you know

After his wartime service, Bill returned to Berea College in the spring of 1946. He was not the same young man who had put
on a uniform. A mature 21-year-old, he now held a keen interest in government and history augmented by his war-time experiences. He helped to redefine the structure of student government on campus. Bill says at that time it was chiefly divided into dormitory councils, and no organized campus-wide mechanism existed.

Having grown up in Berea as a self-proclaimed “campus brat,” Bill’s involvement on campus may have been easier to accomplish than if he had been an outsider. His father, Ben Welsh, ’24, was the assistant dean of labor, and his mother, Mary Cocks Welsh, ’17, supervised the boarding halls. Even as a freshman, Bill was already well-acquainted with many of the staff, faculty, and administrators.

This familiarity came in handy when he later negotiated for student rights.

“I spent a lot of effort thinking through what the (student government) organization ought to look like and how much the administration would let us do,” he says. Returning veterans of his generation joined Bill, a class representative, in resisting some of the stringent social rules and strictures of the College. The boys who left Berea had returned as war-wise men ready to fight for freedoms at home as well as overseas. The fledgling group
drafted a constitution that encompassed student rights, participation in student disciplinary decisions, and designation of responsibilities for academic and campus conduct, all previously unaddressed.

The “Dear Jean” letter

To Jean Justice, ’48, Bill wrote an unforgettable letter from Wisconsin a month after his election. He penned, “Jeanie, I feel that there is something here bigger than both of us, but that it is going to take tremendous sacrifice from both of us together to whip it.”

He felt encouraged by the fact that others had listened with respect to the fears and ideals of the anti-Communist faction, but that the majority vote peacefully defeated that agenda item. When discussion arose about taking a stand against discrimination of blacks in Southern schools, initial dissenters were won over and that resolution passed unanimously. “I want you to be part of it with me,” Bill wrote Jean, “a part of a fight that is going to last all our lives — that will have to be taught to our children [and which is] something I want to teach my history classes.” He knew his presidency would change their lives, and so he thoughtfully composed the next question. “This specific problem of our immediate life this next school year can be solved…. I’m asking you now, Jeanie, to understand – to build this thing with me … and to be my wife.”

Jean and Bill married the following January and, according to Bill, her support — emotionally, mentally, and financially — was invaluable to him and the NSA. Jean, a psychology major, found a job and her salary helped to support her husband and other officers during those early months when the only incoming funds came from the sporadic influx of dues from participating schools. Bill spent much of his time on the road, speaking on campuses around the country, encouraging students to ratify the constitution. It was the beginning of the McCarthy Era, and he and the other officers occasionally came up against schools whose administrations refused to give them a platform. “They didn’t want us there,” he says. “We were believed to be on the cutting edge of the radical student movement. We had a tough time getting rid of that label.”

After handing over the reins to a new slate of officers in the fall of 1948, Bill and Jean returned to Berea to finish his senior year. He found great satisfaction in leaving behind a fully functioning organization that
had survived its initial challenges. It continues today, 60 years later, as the U.S. Student Association, still active in supporting student rights.

The consequences of that memorable year with the NSA continued to affect Bill. He received a fellowship through the Southern Regional Training Program to support his continued education in public administration and to continue postgraduate-level classes at three Southern universities in Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee. After obtaining his master’s degree, Bill enrolled at Syracuse University to pursue his doctorate. While there, he received another unexpected phone call in 1952 that led him directly to Washington, D.C. He was called to interview for a job with New York Senator Herbert Lehman. Lehman had been New York’s governor for 10 years, and lieutenant governor under Franklin Delano Roosevelt. After discussing such things as civil rights and the United Nations, the senator offered Bill a job on his staff. As a staffer he worked under Frances Williams, the first African American woman to work for a U.S. senator, and the daughter of two illustrious Berea graduates: Frank Williams (BC 1889) from Louisville and Fannie Miller Williams (BC 1888) from Danville. Bill calls his years with Lehman a “super” graduate education that taught him much about the workings of government.

When Lehman retired in 1956, Bill received another job offer in Washington politics, and the appointments and offers continued. He spent eight years as administrative assistant to Michigan Senator Philip A. Hart, the Senate floor manager of the 1965 voting rights legislation. In addition to civil rights, Hart was active in legislation on resource management and consumer rights.

His civil service credentials and government expertise impressed U.S. Vice President Hubert Humphrey, who appointed Bill Welsh as an administrative assistant in 1966. Bill served him through his presidential bid in 1968. Following Humphrey’s White House bid, Bill became executive director of the Democratic National Committee, serving three years. He went to work as a governmental affairs director for the largest AFL-CIO union for public employees, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), a job that was interrupted when, in 1974, he became Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs and Legislation in the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Human Health Services under President Jimmy Carter. Bill later returned to AFSCME.

After Bill retired in 1978, he began guest lecturing and replacement teaching at various colleges, sharing his first-hand knowledge of American government with students, just as he vowed to do in the letter to his future wife in the fall of 1947. In 1990, he returned to Berea to teach a short-term class on public affairs.

Bill’s memoirs about his unforgettable year with the NSA are chronicled in the book, *American Students Organize*, a large volume full of photos and clippings about the history of the NSA and its predecessor, the U.S. Student Association. Though he’s not engaged in any formal political activities now, Bill’s keen understanding of current events and skilled use of technology belie his eight decades. He does a lot of “second guessing” about the current political climate and thinks 2008 would be a great time to be a political science professor.
It was the spring of 1988 and for a moment, Hasan Davis, ’92, thought maybe Berea wasn’t the place for him. He had been told to pack his bags and leave campus. All the signs seemed to say that people who’ve made mistakes don’t get second chances.

By age 11, he was in trouble with the law. In middle school he struggled with dyslexia and attention deficit disorder. When asked to read aloud, he hid his disability by lashing out at the nearest person and being removed from class. People said that he didn’t need to worry about whether or not he could read. He was just going to end up like most black men he knew: dead or in prison.

Hasan’s mother, the poet Alice Lovelace, didn’t think so. Rather than allow him to grow silent and angry, she encouraged him to find the words. “She put a piece of paper in my hand and a pencil, and said, ‘Write it down,’” he recalls. “I started to write on this pad of paper and I ripped through about the first six or seven pages because I was so mad, so angry because nobody ever listened to what I had to say. That was my reality.”

With pencil in hand, however, he found the power to say what he needed and “tell the world about who I was. That first piece I couldn’t even read because it was so illegible.” When he finished, he got up and walked outside. “I didn’t hit anybody. I didn’t scream at anybody,” he recalls. And why not? Hasan answers the question simply: “I had found a voice.”

Still, Hasan continued to struggle. He dropped out of a progressive alternate high school in Atlanta, then finally got his GED. Wanting to escape the streets, he chose college — a dream no man in his family had ever attained.

Being accepted into Berea in 1985 felt like a miracle, he says, but it was not without difficulty. On the way to Berea, the family car broke down, stranding them in Tennessee. By the time Hasan arrived, orientation was over. His mother gave him her last twenty dollars and said, “Okay, Hasan. It’s time to prove everybody right or everybody wrong.”

After three semesters, Hasan was expelled for poor grades. He went to then Dean of Students, Paul Hager, asking if he could come back later. Hager said that if Hasan decided to give it another try, he would see what he could do.

Back in Atlanta, Hasan soon realized that if he stayed he might get caught up in his old life. Instead, he joined the Army. When his military training was complete in January 1988, to Dean Hager’s surprise, Hasan returned to Berea.
“The hardest thing to do,” Hasan says, “is to come back to a place where you have failed, where people know you have failed.”

The determined young man re-enrolled in the spring of 1988, but left at the end of that semester under even more dire circumstances—the accusation of plagiarism on a final paper. The most painful part of the whole experience, says Hasan, was enduring the charge of academic dishonesty. Another man might have thrown up his hands and cursed Fate, but Fate had other plans. Before he left school, he checked his mail box and found an envelope containing a headband with Japanese characters and a rising sun. On the outer bag was a message of hope. It read: “Inevitable victory for Hasan. Love, Mom.” Hasan remembers sitting on the wall in front of the Alumni Building looking at the headband and thinking that it was not over; it wasn’t time for him to quit.

He went to Dean Hager and told him that he’d be back. Hasan moved to Richmond. He worked with Darrell Harrison, head of campus security, and taught self-defense classes at Berea. Working as a summer counselor with Berea’s Upward Bound program, he found a passion for working with and motivating young people.

In 1990, he convinced the Admissions board to let him return under their conditions that included labor, convocation, academic, and social probation. The College helped him get a computer, which became instrumental in helping him get a handle on the dyslexia. “I knew that if I had a computer with grammar and spell check, I could get out whatever thoughts were inside my head, and that people would understand.” Armed with technology and steely determination, Hasan made the Dean’s List that first semester. Back on track academically, he became involved in the theatre. The next year, 1991, he ran for student government president.

Once elected, Hasan worked on campus safety issues and helped to create walking trails. More importantly he strove to be a role model. Eef Fontanez, ’93, SGA vice president in 1991-92 and currently a guidance counselor for Berea Community High School, recalls Hasan as “an awesome president. He solicited opinions, heard from all sides, and then made his decisions.”

Through the support of his mother and Berea, Hasan began to dream of the man that he could be and of what he might accomplish, despite his rough beginning. “I wasn’t what everybody else said I was. I wasn’t my disability. I wasn’t my challenge. I was what I chose to be.”

Hasan graduated from Berea with honors and earned his law degree at the University of Kentucky in 1995. Governor Paul Patton appointed him to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee; he now chairs the advisory board of that same state group. At one time he directed the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force in Lexington; now he is a motivational speaker through Empowerment Solutions, which he founded. He speaks to educators, youth advocates, and social workers, and directly to young people in high school, middle school, at-risk schools, detention facilities, or after-school programs. In the last year, Hasan estimates having reached 15,000 young people. Hasan is a sought-after keynote speaker at national, regional, and state conferences on juvenile justice, education, and mental health. He delivers a message of hope.

“I made my redemption the hard way,” Hasan says. “I’ve been in some very bad places and done some bad things. I had to take responsibility for my mistakes and choices, and pay back. You can grow from the experiences.”

The mistakes he has made and his subsequent achievements give him the credibility that he needs to talk with young people about their lives. He has found redemption in helping others learn from their mistakes. “With my struggle they can see that there is hope. I am the lesson,” he says.

To those facing hard times, Hasan affirms, “Life is about choice. How we choose to deal with any circumstance that comes to us will tell the world who we really are.”

In 2006, Hasan Davis was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from Berea College.
Lives of Service and Nonviolence Rewarded

Just as we headed to press, Berea College Magazine learned that Tennessee’s Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA) recently awarded its 2008 Peacemaker Awards to Charlie Lord, ’42, Walter Stark ’48, and Walter’s brother, Len Stark.

A conscientious objector during World War II, Charlie was assigned to forestry projects in New York and North Dakota by the Civilian Public Service. He also volunteered in a jaundice experiment at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. By war’s end, he was performing alternative service at the Philadelphia State Hospital (Byberry), which at one time housed over 6,000 men, women, and children. In 1945, three of his photographs appeared in a Life Magazine exposé about the inhumane and deplorable conditions at Byberry.

After the war, Charlie worked with the Brethren Service Committee and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Europe and Africa. Feeling called to mission work thereafter, he and his family traveled to Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and later to Tanzania under the auspices of the United Church Board of World Ministries. There he taught the Bible, philosophy, world history, and church history in Swahili. At age 65, Lord and his wife returned to the States to serve churches in Wisconsin and Oklahoma.

Now retired and living in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, Charlie and Joy Lord participate in peace vigils, work in church, peace and justice issues, and are members of Cumberland Countians (Tenn.) for Peace and Justice. Charlie Lord received Berea College’s Service Award in 2003.

As a pre-theology student at Illinois’ Elmhurst College during World War II, Walter Stark, ’48, was classified as 4D (minister of religion). The draft board subsequently reclassified Walter as 1A (available for unrestricted military service). In response, Walter returned his draft cards and refused to accept further registration status. When he did report for induction, the FBI arrested him, sentencing him to five years in the Federal Correctional Institution at Milan, Michigan.

Walter later graduated from Berea College and attended Chicago Theological Seminary and Crozer Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, where Martin Luther King Jr. was a fellow student. He served churches in Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, Colorado, Iowa, and on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota. Later, he earned a master’s degree and secondary school certification, and worked as a counselor and drama director. After moving to Philadelphia, Walter worked as a librarian; his wife Dorothy was a social worker. In 1990 they retired to Pleasant Hill where they attend conferences and participate in peace, social justice, anti-nuclear, church, and county activities.

Walter’s brother, Len Stark, registered as a conscientious objector at the beginning of the war. He was sent to New York state and then Oregon where he worked in nurseries, logging, and fighting forest fires. He met Charlie Lord in 1944 when he was sent to perform alternative service at Byberry. Kindred spirits, they have remained friends for over 60 years. After college and ordination, Len and his wife Betty served churches in Indiana, California, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. They went on to set up the second Victim Offender Reconciliation Project (VORP) in the United States. Retiring to Pleasant Hill in 1989, Len started the VORP program in Cumberland County and helped found the Cumberland Countians for Peace and Justice. He and his wife still participate in peace vigils and have belonged to the Fellowship of Reconciliation since 1941.

Thanks to Franklin, ’49, and Betty J. Parker, ’50, and their neighbor, Jean Clark, who contributed the original article.
Alumni Connections

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

Berea is Coming to You!
Berea College Clubs are all over the country—one is probably meeting near you! To find alums in your community, 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
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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

HOMECOMING Nov. 7-9
Keeping Bereans Connected!

Friday, Nov 7
Alumni Awards Reception, 6:00 p.m.
Distinguished Alumnus Award: Jerry B. Hale, ’73
Outstanding Young Alumnus Award: Donna Sabino Butt, ’90
Honorary Alumnus Award: Larry and Nancy Shinn

Saturday, Nov 8
Homecoming Parade, 11:00 a.m. (cancelled, if raining)
Homecoming Barbeque on the Quad, 12-2:00 p.m.
Cheer on the Mountaineers!
5:30 p.m. in Seabury Center
Alumni Mixer, after the men’s basketball game in Baird Lounge

Sunday, Nov 9
Alumni Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
in Union Church.
Special performances by the Alumni Chapel and Concert Choir directed by Dr. Stephen Bolster

Sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations
Visit www.berea.edu/alumni/homecoming
About Berea People

1937

Jim “Pop” Hollandsworth serves on the southeastern section board of the American Camping Association. He chaired the 70th class reunion at Berea College last year. He is active in preservation of the undeveloped campus of Asheville School, and serves as base camp manager of annual Mt. LeConte hikes. Morrie, his wife, was convention treasurer for the State Garden Club, assistant staging chair for the State Flower Show, and is active in local Garden Club affairs and her church. They reside in Huntington, WV.

1938

Edgar E. Gardner, her husband, resides in Saco, ME.

1939

She and Edgar E. Gardner, a chaplain-and-wife team to retired clergy and spouses and Sutherland Finch, Ok ’53, is a retired realtor-broker-in-charge. They reside in Charleston, SC. They are also the chaplain-and-wife team to retired clergy and spouses and supporting spouses of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. Holly O. Phillips is a retired minister. He resides in Siler, VA.

1941


1948

Elise Coffey England is a retired teacher. She and Eugene E. England, her husband, enjoy retirement and traveling with their church senior citizens group. They live in Huber Heights, OH.

Edgar G. Russell, Ok ’37, retired in 1972. He and Ruth H. Russell, his wife, spend winters in Florida. They have travelled across the United States in their motor home several times and especially enjoy the national parks.

1949

Franklin Parker and Betty J. Parker, ’50, have jointly published several books and articles. They reside in Crossville, TN.

French Rogers and Barbara Hill Rogers are retired. They live in Hendersonville, NC.

1951

Rev. Royd W. Finch, Jr., is retired. Leon Sutherland Finch, Ok ’53, is a retired realtor, broker-in-charge. They reside in Charleston, SC. They are also the chaplain-and-wife team to retired clergy and spouses and supporting spouses of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina.

Holly O. Phillips is a retired minister. He resides in Siler, VA.

1952

Iva Sublett Brown is a retired public health nurse. She resides in Corbin, KY.

Joyce Parfoise Gardner is retired and stays very busy. She and Edgar E. Gardner, her husband, reside in Saco, ME.

Dorothy Schmidt Obi is author of Manual for School Libraries on Small Budgets. She is a retired librarian and resides in Enugu, Nigeria.

1953

Keep in Touch

The Berea College Alumni Association enjoys hearing from Bereans from all over the US 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 credited 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 1.888.804.0691, email diana_taylor@berea.edu, or log on to www.berea.edu/alumni.

Louise Austin Roe is a retired teacher. She and Robert C. Roe celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 23, 2007. They live in Harrison, MI.

1954

Effie Boggs Creamer and Glynn N. Creamer, of Hiltop Lakes, TX, took their entire family of 20 on a Carnival Cruise to the eastern Caribbean for 12 days in June 2007.

Dr. Joe L. Morgan was inducted to the North Carolina Republican Party’s Hall of Fame for the 11th Congressional district in 2007. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1992 and has been a sustaining member of the Republican National Commission since 1972. He is a member of four county committees and chaplain of the Madison County Rotary Club where he lives in Marshall, NC.

1955

Loring “L.H.” Vance served as the 1955 class chairman for the 2005 summer reunion. In 2007 he was honored at Mathias High School as a teacher and coach. Annabelle, his wife, was honored in Gruinville as Hardy’s “company belle” and at Mathias High School as a teacher. Both are retired and live in Mathias, WV.

1956

Ruth Seas and Noddy O. Seas celebrated their 50th anniversary on May 19, 2007. The couple resides in Waynesville, NC.

1959

Raymond F. Spivey is a retired CEO of SDSService, Inc. He and Jackie, his wife, reside in Danville, KY.

1960

Thelma Miller Klich has moved to Richmond, VA (not Richmond, KY as reported in an earlier issue). She works with the Arthritis Aquatic Program. Cleta Haga Roberts was awarded the 2007 Citizen of the Year in the town of Rural Retreat, VA where she resides.

1961

Keith H. Byrd, MD is retired from emergency medicine after 37 years at Wellmont Holston Valley Hospital in Kingsport, TN.

Ival Sorre is a retired and is the president of “Friends of Otomatipes Worldwide—USA,” a nonprofit organization. He resides in Cincinnati, OH.

Ed Shul, Ok ’61 is retired and spent the month of September 2007 visiting Europe. He resides in Wernersville, PA.

Shirley Unthank Smith is a retired kindergarten teacher and resides in Amelia Court House, VA.

1962

William B. White is a retired professor of English. He plays banjo, guitar, and Resophonic guitar in the bluegrass band, Old Dawg Bluegrass. Bonnie Bach White is a medium registered at Lily Dale Spiritualist Assembly in Lily Dale, NY. She also has an art studio there and continues to produce a body of mythographic and spiritually thematic work. The couple resides in Cassada, NY.

1964

Thomas Comer, Rd ’60, BC ’64, is retired and living in Ashland, KY. He enjoys attending all the reunions of Berea College and Berea Foundation.

1966

Ruby Gayheart Pernet spends her time golfing, traveling, and visiting her granddaughter in California. She resides in Centralia, IL, and would enjoy hearing from classmates.

1967

Paula Sue Boin is a first and second grade teacher in Princeton, WV where she resides.
1968  
Dr. Freida Hopkins Outlaw, of Nashville, TN is chief nurse and assistant commissioner of special populations and minority services at the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. She was inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing in 2007.

1969  
Bill Melton, became the new Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIA) commissioner in November 2007. The KIA consists of nine schools, including Berea College, in four states. Bill is also the associate director of Regional Development at Eastern Kentucky University. He and Nancy Moore Melton, ’72, reside in Berea, KY.

1970  
Ronald C. Dockery was appointed to a four-year term on the Alumni Executive Council starting in November 2007. Ron also sang the national anthem at the men’s Homecoming basketball game last year. He lives in Greenville, KY.

1974  
Larry Reeves is the mountain area program manager of the Alzheimer’s Association, Western Carolina Chapter, in Asheville, NC.

1978  
Clyde L. Viers is district seed consultant of Stewart Seeds, a division of Monsanto. Candice P. Viers, his wife, is general manager of a three-state auto recovery firm. The couple lives in Francisco, IN. They have a daughter, Brittnie, who is in graduate school.

Amy Swango-Wilson has a doctorate in health services, community health promotion, and education from Wilted University. She is employed at the University of Alaska Anchorage in the school of nursing, E.Band MS programs. She also works as a research nurse for the Alaska Native Tribal Consortium and volunteers with local agencies serving the intellectually developmentally disabled population in Anchorage.

Dr. Michael A. Banks is a research chemist with E.I. duPont de Nemours and Company. He is the technical group leader for regulatory compliance and codes supporting DuPont’s surfacing product portfolio. He resides in Buffalo, NY.

Kelva Thomas Nelson received the National American Star Award of Teaching in 2007 from the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. She lives in Ashland, KY.

Dale Toms retired from his computer business and has begun a new career in Home Health Account Management. Dale’s Home Workshop was featured in the July issue of Better Homes and Gardens Woodmagazine, “Best American Home Workshops 2007.” Dale and Dobbie Toms reside in Bedford, VA.

Carolyn Pointer is president and chief executive officer for Hillcrest HealthCare in Knoxville, TN where she resides.

Lt. Col. Dwayne E. Dover has retired from the United States Air Force. He is employed by the Department of Defense at Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, FL. He and Terry Lynn Burke Dover, ’85, reside in Avera, FL.

Greg Whitis received the McCreary County Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year Award in 2007 for his work with youth and adults. He is employed by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service as the county extension agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources in McCreary County. He resides in Whitley City, KY.

Karen Willis Randers is a volunteer coordinator for her daughters’ school. Scott Randers, her husband, is an attorney. The couple resides in Fairfax, VA with daughters, Ginny, Abigail, and Lilly.

Crystal Barker is a registered nurse with the VA Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA where she resides. She has received many awards: Best Nursing Team Award in 2005; Clinical Excellence Award in 2006; and Understanding Customer Service Award in 2007.

Lisa Person Ellison is near completion of a writing program for adult readers, the Long Ridge Writers Group. She has been accepted into the Institute for Children’s Literature and Art Instruction Schools of America. She resides in Cumming, GA with her three children, Anastasia, Brielle, and Matthew.

Myinda Louise Howard is a substitute teacher and is employed by the United Group Limited. She is active in her church and resides in Harrisonburg, VA.

Kim Jenkins is the center director and management consultant for Morehead State University’s Small Business Development Center in Ashland, KY and has completed the Certified Business Advisor® (CBA) program.

1992  
Maggie Earp Cowie is manager of the Lowes Foods Applications Team in the IT department at AAR, Inc. Bob Cowie, ’83, is a history teacher and head varsity boys’ basketball coach at Lincolnton High School. The couple resides in Lincolnton, NC with their two children, Robbie and Emily.

Troy Sanford is principal of Belleview-Santee Elementary School. He and Lisa, his wife, reside in Chula, FL with their sons, Andrew and Tyler.

1993  
Married: Terre Pope to Rex Barbara Jean Carriere on October 31, 2007. Terre is manager of Global Gallery a non-profit, fair trade retail store in Yellow Springs, OH. Barbara is a Methodist minister and leads a church near Toledo, OH.

1994  
Mona Baysuk is a house manager at a women’s and children’s crisis shelter. She is employed by Union Gospel Mission Ministries and resides in Spokane, WA.

Married: Richard “Dickie” Chapin to Joel Anne Lumsden on October 20, 2007. Best man was Ted Jennings, ’93. Dickie is a graphic designer for the All Access Music Group in Malibu, CA. Joel is an attorney at Bannan, Green, Frank & Teirnan in Los Angeles. The couple resides in Los Angeles.

Kristina Hadisman Hagan and Chris Hagan reside in Louisville, KY with their daughter, Lee.

1995  

1996  
Birth: a son, Jackson Emery, to Jason E. Brown and Jennifer Kolkhorst Brown, ’96, on February 1, 2007. They have three other sons, Jack, Jaron and Jude. Jason is a program engineer with Cooper Standard Automotive and Jennifer is a homemaker, mother, teacher, and is self-employed. The family resides in Frankfort, KY.

1997  
Birth: a son, Riley James Gay Carrier, to James Gay Carrier and Amy Kathleen McGray Carrier, ’90, on May 23, 2007. The couple has two other children, Brookeley and Madox. The family resides in Wayneburg, KY.
2001

Dwayne Compton was selected the University of Louisville Adult Back Achiever for 2001. He and Nikki Taylor Compton reside in Louisville, KY.

Married: Jili S. Carpenter Jarrell to Mark Jarrell on October 6, 2000. Jili is a librarian and Mark is a web developer. The couple resides in Columbus, OH.


Lee Morris, Hon, ’01, former campus minister, attended Charles W. Howard Santa Clara School in Midland, MI last year. The school was founded in 1937 by Howard, Mary/Santa, Lee and Gergy, his wife, reside in Clinton, TN.

Birth: a daughter, Olivia Grace Wilson, to David Wilson and Nicole Back Wilson, on November 26, 2000. They have a son, Isaiah. David is a teacher at Columbus Public Schools and Nicole is a document writer at ECDT, Ohio’s online public school. The family resides in Bailey, OH.

2002


Birth: a daughter, Christina Beth Henderson, to Stephanie Smith Henderson and Marc Henderson on October 5, 2002. The family resides in Florence, KY.

Married: Dale Ronder to Lyndsay Michelle Golek on February 2, 2002. Denis Ronder, ’03, was best man. Also in attendance was Hannah Logan Ponder, ’02. Dale is director of procurement for the Cranberry Township School District in Yuma, AZ. Lyndsay is a preschool teacher. The couple resides in Yuma.

2003

Jaye E. Smith received a master of arts in history from New Mexico State University in December 2003. She lives in Las Cruces, NM.

Tracey Thomas completed her master of science in journalism at the EW Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University in November 2007. She also has a master of arts in sociology from the University of Kentucky. She is communications manager in the Development department at Berea and resides in Berea.

2004

Adrienne Steinfieldt Maye is a development and marketing manager at the southwestern Indiana chapter of the American Red Cross. She and James Maye, her husband, reside in Evansville, IN with their three cats.

Alice Smith is employed by the law offices of Weisman, Weinberg and Riss, and resides in Cincinnati, OH.

2005

Adrienne Keller is working on a master’s degree in international development at Eastern University. She resides in Louisville, KY.

Justin Kindler is taking classes in biology and chemistry at Fennel State University to prepare for graduate studies while working full time as a lab assistant at Lurgi. He resides in Fairmont, WV.

Married: Rebecca Wheat to Troy McFerron. Rebecca is employed at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in theequine division. The McFerrons reside in Georgetown, KY.

Emmy Sinclair graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in December 2007 with a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy. She resides in Loveland, OH.

Birth: a daughter, Larkin Riley Vaughn, to Becky Lynch Vaughn and Jason Vaughn on April 13, 2007. The family resides in Annville, KY.

2006

Married: April Pink to Frank Kindl on March 11, 2006. She is working on a master’s degree in community counseling at Xavier University and is employed as a youth program coordinator at The Women’s Connection. The couple resides in Cincinnati, OH.

Kimber Kenobi is an investigator with Probation and Parole. She resides in Berea with her daughter Teagan.

2007

Justin Lee is a freelance graphics designer living in Berea. His work has been seen on Destination Truth, a weekly adventure series on the Sci-Fi channel that invites viewers along as “one man investigates stories of the unexplained.”

Aysen Nergiz, Anastasia Shegory, Katarina Kubesova, ’06, and Jared Rowley, ’09, spent New Year’s Eve together in New York City. Anastasia is employed as an executive assistant in a major nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. Katarina is employed at KMG one of the leading advisory firms in the nation. Aysen invites alumni to contact her for New York alumni gatherings.
Faculty & Staff

Modena Parrett Baker, Cx'41, of N Richville, KY died January 6, 2008. She was retired from Berea's Cindy Kitchen. She is survived by William Ray Baker, her son.

Richard D. Cooper of Claremont, CA died December 20, 2007. He was assistant to President Weatherford working as a College field staff representative from 1974-83. He was a YMCA service professional and peace advocate. Richard is survived by Edith Cooper, his wife of 70 years, and two daughters.

Aaron Grant of Berea, KY died on December 27, 2007. He was retired from Berea College Food Service. He is survived by Anna Lee Ingram Grant, his wife, and five sons.

Amy Gabbita Hart of Berea, KY died December 15, 2007. She worked at Boone Tavern Hotel. She is survived by Gary-Hart, her husband of 32 years, a son, and a step-daughter.

Dr. Lowell S. Husband died December 16, 2007. He was a former director of College Health Services. He is survived by his three children, Dr. Leslie Elizabeth Husband, '86, Dr. Joseph Daniel Husband, '91, and Stephanie Husband Atkins, '93.

Ruth Irish of Owensboro, KY died October 20, 2007. She was office manager, order taker, and route manager in the Berea College Bakery during the early 1940s. For the remainder of her career, she was a secretary in the Garnder Insurance Agency. Ruth is survived by Carolyn Nichols and Margaret Ruth Field, her daughters.

Joan "Jo" McIntyre, Cx'50, of Berea, KY died October 22, 2007. She worked in various capacities at Berea College from 1943-97. At the time of her retirement she was a controller. She is survived by Chuck McIntyre, her husband, who was also employed at Berea College from 1967-97. She is also survived by two daughters and a son.

1930s

Audrey Francis Turley, '32, of Louisville, KY died November 28, 2007. She was a retired schoolteacher. She is survived by L. Gil, USA. He is Jesse Davis Turley, III and Marion F. "Tommy" Turley, her sons.

Mina Lou Avery Pickle, '33, of Gethersburg, MD died November 20, 2007. She was a special education teacher. She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Evelyn Norton Limbach, '34, of San Jose, CA died November 9, 2007. She was an accomplished pianist, enthusiastic knitter, and an avid reader. She is survived by H. Phillip Limbach, Jr., her son, and Jeanne Limbach Repper, her daughter.

Talmadge Patrick Maggard, Capt, USN (retired) Aasad '34, Rd '38, BC '42, of Arlington, VA died on June 25, 2007. He retired in 1974 after 32 years of duty for the Navy. He is survived by Helen E. Maggard, his wife of 59 years.

Roger Wayne Cloyd, '42, of Oak Ridge, TN died November 11, 2007. He was a veteran of World War II and a retired research chemist from Union Carbide Corporation. He is survived by Pauline Elliott Cloyd, '41, his wife of 64 years, and two daughters.

Belyn Rose Rushin, '42, of Detroit, MI died October 17, 2007. She is survived by George Rushin, her husband, a son, and a daughter.

Elizabeth Hackett Uchiyama, '42, of Honolulu, HI died May 1, 2007. She was retired from the personnel department of Sears, Roebuck & Co. She is survived by Fusao Uchiyama, her husband, a son, and a daughter.

Rev. Everett Herman Lowman, '35, of Asheville, NC died October 25, 2007. He served the Western Conference of the United Methodist Church for 37 years. He is survived by his three children, Everett Herman Lowman, Jr., Vonda Lowman Stack, and Joseph Clare Lowman.

Rose Everett Chasteen, '36, of Barrett, NC died October 22, 2007. He served in World War II and enjoyed a long career as a teacher and administrator for MCAs and public schools. He received many awards for his volunteer service in the adult literacy movement. He is survived by Dorothy Stone Chasteen, '37, his wife of 71 years, a son, and a daughter.

Robert Leon Taylor, '36, of Scottsboro, AL died November 9, 2007. He was a teacher, coach, and later a safety engineer for Eastman Kodak Company. He is survived by Robert L. Taylor, Jr. and James Taylor, his sons.

Margaret Walters Calwell, '37, of Charleston, WV died December 21, 2007. She was a retired schoolteacher, active with the League of Women Voters, and had a passion for politics and current events. She is survived by William Stuart, Jr. and Benjamin Cary Calwell, her sons.

Lucie Chamberlain Black, '38, of Richmond, KY died November 12, 2007. She was a registered nurse and her early experiences included "military" tours of frontier nursing in New Mexico and the Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee. She is survived by Thomas J. "JJ" Black, Jr., her husband of nearly 63 years, a son, and a daughter.

Everett L. Gibson, '39, of Louisville, KY died December 6, 2007. He was a retired educator and a World War II veteran. He is survived by Mary Nina Davis, his daughter.

1940s


Robert L. Taylor, Jr. and James Taylor, his sons.

Jessie Hicks Beasly, '49, of Hills Church, VV died November 30, 2007. He left the ministry to work as an advocate for the mentally ill and later became active in antinuclear groups. He is survived by his three sons, William, John, and Robert Vandiver.

Delmore Andrew Lambert, Newman V-12 '44-45, BC '49, of Rills Church, VV died December 13, 2007. He was a retired schoolteacher. She is survived by Douglas Justin Arnold, her son, and Charlotte A. Campbell, her daughter.

Jessie Marvin Cartwoth of Athens, GA died September 7, 2007. He was a retired office manager of Russell Daniel Irrigation, Inc. He is survived by June Euphemia Cartwoth, '45, his wife.

Earl J. Shupe, Cx'45, Aasad '41, of Berea, KY died December 15, 2007. He was the former owner of Cardinal Grocery and Economy Insurance in Berea and was a USA Navy veteran. He is survived by Bonnie Holman Shupe, '42, and two sons.

Jean Byoxe Gibbs Stillings, '45, of Reisterstown, MD died December 12, 2007. She worked as a tool and die designer for CVW Downs in Michigan, was director of weaving at the Pymouth Colony Farms in Michigan, and was an administrative budget assistant to the dean of the College of Literature, Sciences, and the Arts at the University of Michigan. She is survived by Scott G. Stillings, her son, and Susan T. Stillings, her daughter.


Maudie Hargis Armstrong, Cx'47, of Eighty-Four, PA died September 27, 2007. She was a founding board member of Washington County Habitat for Humanity, a social worker, and a teacher. She is survived by the Rev. Robert Calvin Armstrong, her husband, a son, and two daughters.

Samuel E. Scruggs, '48, of Riverston, MD died June 11, 2006. He was a former district executive and program director for Boy Scouts of America and had a second career as a volunteer. He was presented the Silver Beaver.
Award, the highest Boy Scout award given to a volunteer. He is survived by Frances Bruggs, his wife of 59 years, and two daughters.

Audrey "Moe" Fuller of Hollywood, FL died August 16, 2007. She is survived by Elia Martin Fuller, ’49, his wife.

Janice Fignom Meggared, ’49, of Lexington, KY died on December 29, 2007. She was a homemaker. She is survived by Edward L. Meggared, DDS her husband, three sons, and a daughter.

1950s

Frederick Arthur Ambrose, Jr., ’50, of Little Rock, AR died January 16, 2008. He worked for the Southwestern Bee Lab in Tucson, AZ and kept bees all of his life, learning from his father and grandfather. He was also a former agricultural education and extension advisor to the government of Niger in West Africa. He is survived by Ethel Pearson Ambrose, ’51, his wife.

Jean Banks Browning, ’50, of Chesapeake, VA died October 10, 2007. She was a retired schoolteacher and is survived by Perry and Mike Browning, her sons.

Ernest Fitzpatrick, ’50, of Windor, died August 5, 2005.

Joan "Jo" McIntryre, of Berea, KY died October 22, 2007. She worked in various capacities at Berea College from 1963-97. At the time of her retirement she was Controller. She is survived by Chuck McIntyre, her husband, who was employed at Berea College from 1967-97. She is also survived by two daughters, and a son.


Leslie McCurry, ’51, of Barnesville, NC died March 5, 2008.

Frank Meade Sul esky, Jr., ’51, of Oak Hill, WV died October 7, 2006. He was a retired professor at West Virginia Institute of Technology, Montgomery, and had been chairperson of the math and computer science department. He was a veteran of the US Air Force. He is survived by Phyllis Steven Sul esky, his wife of 17 years, a daughter, and two sons.

Sydney Allen Garrett, M.D., ’52, of Austin, TX died November 30, 2006. After being in private practice, he became a medical educator. He chaired family practice departments at Texas Tech University and East Tennessee State University and later became dean of the Oral Roberts University School of Medicine. He is survived by Carilla Howard Garrett, ’52, his wife of 58 years, and six children.

Nettie Love Hunt, ’52, of Wyoming, OH died December 2, 2007. She was a retired schoolteacher and a Kentucky Colonel. She received Berea's Alumni Loyalty Award in 1997. She is survived by Pamela Hunt, her daughter.

Lois Beaty, ’53, of Norris, TN died January 6, 2008. She was retired from the Tennessee Department of Energy as a certified public secretary. She is survived by Joyce Beaty, her brother.

Margaret Bishop Johnson, ’53, of Somerset, KY died October 9, 2007. She was a retired registered nurse and is survived by Lloyd P. Johnson, Jr., her husband, son, and a daughter.

William Warthen of Spartanburg, SC died May 16, 2007. He is survived by Betty Warthen Warthen, ’54, his wife of more than 50 years.

Virginia Catherine Hopper, ’55, of Sin Diego, CA died November 5, 2007. She was a retired educator serving in various positions. She is survived by Rebecca Reed, her niece.

Anita Stephenson Miniere, ’56, of Lehighton, PA died December 24, 2007. She was a retired registered nurse and developmental disabilities specialist in Florida. She is survived by Richard “Dick” Miniere, her husband, two sons, two step-daughters, and two step-sons.

Pete Shelton, Jr., ’56, of New Smyrna Beach, FL died January 9, 2008. He was a software and computer analyst for the Apollo Space program receiving awards for his work. After retirement he worked as a software engineer consultant for various nuclear power plants as well as a building contractor and realtor. He is survived by Nella Walker Shelton, ’49, his wife of 56 years, a son, and three daughters.

Dorothy May Todd, ’56, of Raleigh, KY died December 30, 2007. She was a retired high school English teacher. After retirement she was the associate chair of the English department at Harry G. High School in Lexington, KY. She is survived by Christopher Troy Todd, her son.

Joyce Perry Nichols, ’58, of Madison, NC died November 26, 2007. She was retired from Clayton College and State University. She is survived by Dennis Nichols, her husband of 51 years, and a daughter.

Janes David "J.D." Ranier, ’59, of Verona, KY died July 18, 2007. He was an aeronautical engineer and a 10th degree black belt in martial arts. He is survived by Scott Ranier, his son.

1960s

John J. Dobbs, husband of Carol Crotty-Dobbs, ’61, of Freeport, TX died December 26, 2007. He was retired from Philadelphia Gear. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and a daughter.

Janice Riesanek Musick, ’62, of Cleveland, VA died December 16, 2007. She was a retired public school teacher and is survived by Paul Duane Musick, her husband, two sons, and a daughter.

Betsy Wright Herrick, ’64, of Marianna, FL died December 7, 2007.

Lou Ella Blackburn Bowman, ’67, of Shelbyville, KY died August 4, 2007. She taught 27 years in Shelby County public schools and was active in Relay for Life. She is survived by Thomas D. "Tommy" Bowman, her husband, and a son.

1970s

Michael Caudill, ’78, of Berea, KY died December 21, 2007. He was the superintendent of Madison County Schools. He served on the board of directors for the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the Berea Chamber of Commerce. He was an active member of several advisory boards and had earned many awards including the Superintendent of the Year award given posthumously. He is survived by Lisa Pennington Caudill, ’78, his wife of 31 years, a son, a daughter, and his parents.

1980s

Steven Joe Dheel, ’82, of Coldwater, MI died November 20, 2007. He had a teaching degree in industrial arts. He is survived by his parents, Hugh S. and Carolyn Dheel, two brothers, and two sisters.

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We’ll Keep A Light On for You!

Faculty, staff, and students in the Production Technology in Woods class worked together with Student Crafts and EPG (Entrepreneurship for the Public Good) to create an original lighting design for the 2008-09 Boone Tavern renovations. This beautiful lamp won the design contest.

Shown here:
Front row: Tara Shumate, ’11, Tim Glotzbach (Student Craft Program director), Dr. Peter Hackbert (co-director of Entrepreneurship) Back row: Brice Newton, ’09, Joseph Trembula, ’10, Ashley James, ’09 and Dr. Gary Mahoney, ’82 (professor).