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Jeff Yates ’16
Finding Sustainable Solutions Through Dynamic Governance

Flexible scheduling. Cloud-based computing. Open office space. Soon these touchstone concepts of modern work life may be joined by a new one – dynamic governance. Some students at Berea are experiencing this model of workplace organization firsthand through their Labor Program positions in the Office of Sustainability.

Shala Smith ’18

Students working with Joan Pauly, sustainability coordinator, have spent the last year in this system. Unlike a traditional office model in which a supervisor creates a plan to achieve a set of goals and then delegates oversight of particular tasks, dynamic governance employs a ground-up approach. Workers and managers, staff and students are responsible for identifying challenges and opportunities, then creating a plan to address the situation.

Students working with Joan Pauly, sustainability coordinator, have spent the last year in this system. Unlike a traditional office model in which a supervisor creates a plan to achieve a set of goals and then delegates oversight of particular tasks, dynamic governance employs a ground-up approach. Workers and managers, staff and students are responsible for identifying challenges and opportunities, then creating a plan to address the situation.
Dynamic governance “inspired me to work harder to make sure that I get my projects in and make sure that I’m doing what’s best for the whole office of sustainability.”

Kristina Anderson ’19

For the Office of Sustainability, dynamic governance offered the opportunity to find better ways to meet the challenge of making the mission of sustainability tangible, accessible and visible. For example, convincing the campus community to “rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle” requires campuswide coordination and education. Pauly believes Berea can become a zero-waste institution, but coordination across many departments is essential, and dynamic governance has been a good tool for the job.

How does dynamic governance work? Though there are several models, the form Pauly uses is based on the one she “experienced when the United States Green Building Council (USGBC — the originators of the LEED Green Building rating system) decided to shift how it governed.” She describes it as a “consensus decision-making model based on the practices of the Quakers to show up to meetings prepared and to be respectful of others.” Each team member has an area of responsibility and is expected to be actively engaged in finding problems and areas for improvement. As these areas are identified, students apply their critical thinking skills by developing a proposal to share with the team. There is also an operational component to every dynamic governance-style meeting. There is a balance between proposals and full consent decision-making and the “where do things stand and what do we need to do to complete the project” portion of the meeting.

In the proposal process, students are responsible for answering three questions: What is the current situation? What is the problem with the current situation? What is the proposal for solving the problem? Proposals are circulated to all team members in advance of their weekly labor meetings. During the meetings, the team works together to develop the solution that will make the most effective use of their resources. As a result, the meetings are more engaging and productive, says Noah Coleman ’17, student supervisor. He believes dynamic governance “allows for those participating in the meeting to both ensure that they’re present and also make sure that they have time and a place to express what they’re doing.”

For the students, this creates a positive workplace atmosphere. “It’s a fantastic job because I get to be involved in pretty much all of the projects that are happening at once. And I love getting to see how we’re moving forward as a college with regard to sustainability,” said Coleman.

In the case of Kristina Anderson ’19, communications and marketing coordinator, dynamic governance led to personal changes. Anderson emphasized that dynamic governance “inspired me to work harder to make sure that I get my projects in and make sure that I’m doing what’s best for the whole office of sustainability.” In her prior jobs, Anderson says she was accustomed to following orders, but thanks to dynamic governance, she is more aware of how her individual work affects the work of the team. To make sure she supports her team members’ goals, Anderson now takes a more proactive approach to meeting individual goals because she better understands the connection between her work and the team’s performance.

Helping students grow and prepare for work in the modern world is one of the major goals of the Labor Program. According to Dean of Labor David Tipton, “There are over 100 work environments students can experience at Berea. Some are very traditional; others are more dynamic but each has a place in educating our students. However, the sustainability model is an excellent example of how to fully engage, educate and prepare our students to enter a rapidly changing and evolving world of work.” That world values “a strong work ethic, the ability to work in teams, leadership, critical thinking and communication skills,” said Tipton.

The real importance of dynamic governance, Pauly stated, will be what each student takes from it after graduation and applies to their personal, work and civic lives. She believes that “to see this practice done well is to experience a respectful, open, informed approach to elections and policy decisions,” which helps ensure that the “final decision is better than the individual ideas suggested at the beginning.”
REAL PROBLEMS + REAL SOLUTIONS = REAL WINS

“I’ll never use this in the real world.”

J. Morgan ’91

Though such truisms have always been suspect, lately the computer science program at Berea College has been quite effective at shooting them down. Evidence for this came in February, when Dr. Jan Pearce took 22 students to the Tri-State Women in Computing Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. They competed against more than 200 students from other schools, including the University of Kentucky and the University of Cincinnati.

“Class projects are BORING.”

Dr. Jan Pearce and her students, who swept the undergraduate awards at the Tri-State Women in Computing conference.

While Pearce was confident the students would perform well, even she was a bit surprised when Berea swept the undergraduate awards.

Honorable mention (third place) went to Raunak Shona Thakur ’18 for her project, “Using Web Technologies to Improve Application Process.” Thakur said her work developed from a service-learning class assignment to choose a real-world problem and solve it using technology. In the class, taught by Dr. Mario Nakazawa, she developed an online system for declaring an independent major, which makes the process more efficient and helps reduce the waste associated with a paper-based process.

Phyo Phyo Kyaw Zin ’16 took second place for her project, “Developing Dashboard Management System (DMS),” which she developed for Joan Pauly, sustainability coordinator, with the direction of Dr. Scott Heggen. According to Zin, the dashboard is “an integrated platform for managing and displaying sustainability data. The back-end data is all stored in Google Drive spreadsheets and the front-end is displayed on a WordPress platform.” The integration means as soon as data is updated on the spreadsheet, the information displayed on the sustainability website changes. The dashboard can be accessed at www.berea.edu/sustainability/sustainability-dashboard.

The winning project was a team effort by Ashley Aiken ’18 and Amber Tolleson ’16. Working with Dr. Matt Jadud, Aiken and Tolleson programmed a sensor to detect the kinds of gases produced by fracking. Fracking is a controversial technique for extracting natural gas or oil from the ground by injecting pressurized liquids. The gases released through this process are believed by many to be harmful to the environment.

“We wrote code that told the sensors to take five readings per second and average them. The code was then sent via Bluetooth dongle to a phone, which stored the data that we later examined in Excel,” Aiken said. For the project to succeed, they had to find a way to deploy the sensor in the field. Tolleson noted that while it required “many, many designs and hardware store trips,” the team enjoyed the process of “learning how to use a variety of tools for building.”

What makes the success of these women even more remarkable is that...
none of them came to Berea with strong backgrounds in computer science. Thakur said computer science simply was not “part of curriculum in schools in Nepal.”

“Computer science is definitely a new interest,” said Aiken. “I did not have a computer until I was a senior in high school, so I never dreamed that I would be majoring in computer science.”

While much of the credit for the successes at the conference goes to the students and faculty, Pearce believes the educational model of the college as a whole also plays a role.

“A Berea education helps students to think critically and to communicate effectively, both of which are valuable skills that I believe give Berea students an advantage that they often do not fully appreciate until after graduation,” said Pearce. She also credits the Labor Program with developing a strong work ethic that “empowers Berea students,” giving them the confidence to tackle real problems in the workplace or any other area of life.

The faculty hope these successes will help the program to continue to grow and attract student interest, especially among female students, since women are significantly underrepresented in the field. This year, Berea will graduate 20 computer and information science (CIS) majors, including seven women. While women represent only 35 percent of Berea’s CIS majors this year, that percentage is nearly double the national rate (18 percent) of female graduates in CIS at the bachelor’s level. In a few more years, maybe the idea that “technology appeals more to boys” will be another truism turned anachronism.

Second place, Phyo Phyo Kyaw Zin ’16: “Developing Dashboard Management System (DMS)”

First place, Ashley Aiken ’18 and Amber Tolleson ’16: “The Detection of Gas in Fracking Contaminated Water”

By Deb McIntyre ’11

On Saturday, Feb. 27, hundreds of people filed through the old gym at the Seabury Center to say goodbye to a man who had spent countless hours there. Elvin Combs Hon ’81, better known as Mr. Combs or Mr. C around campus, died on Feb. 23 at age 92. Forty-one years of those years, from 1947 to 1988, spent as equipment manager for Berea College Athletics.

Mr. Combs was a humble man who never met a stranger and was loved by everyone who knew him, from the first-year student helping him clean jerseys to former Kentucky governors for whom he campaigned.

A Tribute to MR. BEREA—ELVIN COMBS
The sunny room where he spent most of the last five years of his life tells the story. At his home a few miles north of campus, the room is lined from floor to ceiling with hundreds of photos. Along the top are Mountaineer athletes in faded black-and-white publicity shots, their game faces frozen in time. Further down are team photos and snapshots of people from all walks of life. A closer look reveals autographed pictures of President Bill and Hillary Clinton, governors, senators, and other politicians.

According to Bette, his wife of 70 years, Elvin could put a name to all those faces and tell a story about each one. When a friend or former student stopped by to visit and Elvin didn’t have a photo of them on his wall, he would ask for a copy for his collection. Homecoming and Summer Reunion were busy times. Throughout the year he would get phone calls from alumni.

The conversations were very similar, says Bette. "Mr. C! I bet you can't guess who this is."

"I bet I can."

"Surely not, it’s been too long. You couldn't possibly remember me."

But remember them he did. Not only their names, but also when they attended Berea, what sports they played and what awards they won.

Dr. Mike Johnson ’73 was an athlete, professor and coach during Mr. Combs’ career. A 35-year veteran of Berea athletics, the cross country and track coach has fond memories of long talks with his mentor. Mr. C was instrumental in getting him his job and was a close friend and grandfather figure to his children.

"If a student got in trouble, they called on Mr. Combs. He was such a good man, always trying to help and counsel students. Our students are unique and special and for hungry but cash-poor students who stopped in the "cage" (his tiny office) for advice. In that office he talked many students out of quitting school when the pressures of classes and work became too much. "I personally know of several young men who graduated because of his intervention," says the Rev. Randy Osborne Hon ’85, retired campus minister and director of the Campus Christian Center.

Current Berea College Trustee and former board chair David Shelton ’69, a baseball player during his years as a student, formed a close friendship with Mr. Combs that endured many decades.

“There are numerous good reasons why so many of us continued until recently to journey out Highway 1016 to visit with Mr. Combs and Bette. These good reasons include his caring attitude, kindness, and genuine unforgettable concern for our lives as Berea College students. He helped me through many trying issues as a young man and was extremely influential in my needed adjustments to a path leading to graduation. I will truly miss him.”

Combs grew up in Happy, a tiny town in Poiny County in Eastern Kentucky, where he was a coal miner until he decided soldiering would be easier. He served in World War II in Europe, returning in December 1945. He then married Bette, a native of a town near Buffalo, NY, whom he met during training, and they moved to Berea, where his family had settled when sister Fay began attending the Foundation School. The first year he worked as a painter at the College before he was hired as equipment manager.

Combs excelled in athletics. According to Johnson, he once beat an opposing team’s star free-throw shooter (ranked second in the nation) in an informal contest, hitting 59 shots in a row without a miss, shooting underhanded, “granny” style. When Osborne wanted to get in shape in his early years of teaching, he introduced himself to Combs, asking for advice. “He had a reputation for being the very best in squash, handball and racquetball,” says Osborne. The older man (Combs was 43 years old) introduced him to several sports, and they were doubles partners on the racquetball court for many years.

Combs’ comforting presence was a fixture at home athletic contests. The father of five (including Berea alumni John Combs ’69 and Edie Combs McCreary ’71) was always seen cheering on his Mountaineers wearing his Berea College jacket and blue “B” baseball cap. “He was proud of the men and women who had become such a large part of his life at the College,” recalled Osborne. Looking back now, those former students feel blessed to have been touched by this man’s life.

Barbie VanWinkle Mills ’80 worked under Elvin in the equipment room. “I looked forward to going to work at 7:30 a.m.,” she said, “because I knew he would be there with a smile on his face. He touched many lives.”

Arnold Stacy ’61 said “[he] immediately became a friend and mentor. He left a legacy that will never be surpassed. In my mind he was Mr. Berea College.”

“What a kind, gentle, and wise man,” remembers Mickey Wu ’73. “He was the reason I did not quit the soccer team out of frustration in my freshman year. He encouraged me, counselled patience and hard work. As usual, he was right. I cannot think of Berea without thinking about Mr. Combs.”

The first athletics department “bus” he drove was really a car that was cut in half and elongated so the ballplayers would fit. It was christened “the snake” by the players.

Sometimes his hours on the job were as early as six in the morning until midnight or later if there was an away game and he was driving the bus.

Students would park their cars at his house, catch a ride home with him on Fridays, and grab their keys from the cabinet and drive home.
From the Margin to the Center:

GYUDE MOORE’S REMARKABLE JOURNEY

By Tim Jordan ’76

“Ebola deaths are horrendous!”

Gyude Moore ’06 did not mince words in a letter he wrote at the height of the Ebola crisis in September of 2014. Recounting the distress he and other citizens of Liberia were experiencing, he wrote, “It’s hell here. Two days ago some lady with a nine-year-old and a six-month-old passed. Her husband had died from the disease and she took care of him. She got sick and the nine-year-old took care of her. Now she’s dead and both children have Ebola. Seriously, how does one go to sleep with this kind of information?”

Gyude’s sentiments contain equal parts of compassion and passion. His compassion springs from spiritual depths of his own faith and past experiences of poverty, grief and loss. His passion, which draws from those same sources, is undeniable and impressive to everyone who encounters him.

Perhaps this combination explains how in only 10 years of public service, Gyude built a resume that would be the envy of many senior diplomats. Among his many accomplishments, he can list graduate of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown, Oxfam CHANGE leader, senior aid in the Office of the President and currently Minister of Public Works in Liberia.

However, he is no stranger to trying times; rather, he embodies the idea that great goodness can come out of great difficulties. Like many Liberians, his family was greatly affected by his country’s widespread poverty, economic instability, political strife and warfare. Liberia suffered two civil wars during his early years, the first from 1989-1996 and the second from 1999-2003. Recounting his youth, Gyude says, “Before the war we were relatively OK. The war changed everything.”

During the war, marauders came to Gyude’s village, where they pillaged, massacred neighbors, and burned his father’s house. His family fled war-torn Liberia to seek refuge in the Ivory Coast. A pivotal moment for Gyude occurred...
impression that it was not a problem when activists. They encouraged us to question the impact on him. "Mike and Michelle were applicants to receive a scholarship at Berea." Professors like Mike Rivage-Seul and Michelle Tooley made a particular effort to live for." 

There was really no future. America going to school was an end in itself since an immigrant has come here. It was a land of refuge population." Such tragedies might defeat some, but Gyude says that listening to his mother’s sobs of anguish in darkness the night his sister died "prompted me to promise that you didn’t. They enabled me."

As a student majoring in political science and economics, service was central to Gyude’s Berea College experience. He was selected as a Bonner Scholar because he met the program’s requirements of commitment to service, demonstrated leadership, scholastic ability and maturity. As the program’s first international scholar, he worked with the homeless in Louisville and AIDS education with youth in Washington, D.C.

As a Bonner Scholar, Gyude attended a workshop by Oxfam America, the international humanitarian organization focused on finding solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice. "Here was an organization working to create the world I had envisioned as a refugee kid," he says, adding, "It was there that I met Liz Carby from Oxfam America, who encouraged me to apply to become an Oxfam CHANGE leader. The rest, like they say, is history."

That "history," is something Betty Hibler, the now-retired associate director of the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service (CELTS), knows very well. "Gyude participated in an Oxfam leadership program on becoming a CHANGE leader, which was a big turning point," Hibler says. "After that, Gyude became a sought-after speaker." While still a student, he addressed the United Nations as a panelist during the Tomorrow’s Leaders’ Today forum, the World Youth Leadership Network in New York, the Inter-American Forum in Florida, and facilitated a workshop at the 16th Annual Nobel Peace Prize Winners’ Forum at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

Gyude recalls his first off-campus speaking engagement: "Michelle Tootley, who believed in me before I actually began to believe in myself, was with me at St. Olaf at the Nobel’s Peace Prize Winner’s conference. She believed I had an incredible voice, a perspective that needed to be heard. She remains with me -- a guiding light. She was my friend, my mentor, my mother, my teacher, my inspiration."

Dr. Tootley, Berea’s Eli Lilly Professor of Religion who passed away before this article was completed, said of him, "Gyude’s faith and his deep conviction that the world is not the way it should be are important catalysts for his economic justice work. He understands different kinds of people and empowerment and practices listening skills that help him find common ground with people. Although he is an excellent speaker, he doesn’t try to dazzle his audience, but speaks out [of] a deep passion for social justice, grounded in good analysis."

After graduation from Berea College, Gyude pursued graduate studies at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown before eventually returning to Liberia. For two years, Gyude served in the Liberian government as deputy chief of staff/head of the Program Delivery Unit in the Executive Office of the President. From 2009 until 2012, he was senior aide in the Office of the President. In describing his government work he says, "It was a journey. I remember the first time I tried to be helpful. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first elected female head of state in Africa, was not very welcoming. It’s funny now in hindsight. But they were working on her Annual Message (like your State of the Union) and I was there helping. She came in and saw me, and gave me that ‘what are you doing here?’ look.” But Gyude stayed and the next year, her speech was written on an outline he had crafted.

Gyude’s loyalty and work ethic earned the president’s respect. In December 2014, President Sirleaf appointed Gyude to her cabinet as Minister of Public Works. In that role he oversees the country’s largest allotment in national budget to oversee infrastructure programs such as roads, energy plants, hospitals, shipping ports, and airports. "I went from aide in the President’s Office, to senior aide, to special assistant to the President’s chief of staff, to deputy chief of Staff and head of the President’s Delivery Unit. Now I’m minister of public works. Pretty incredible six years!" Gyude says balancing pride with humility. "I worked hard. I was disciplined. I was there when she arrived in the morning and was one of the last when..."
she left,” Gyude continues. “I took on tasks that needed to be done. I prepared briefs for meetings. I kept taking on more responsibilities and delivering and ultimately became one of the president’s closest aides and advisers.” At his wedding, President Sirleaf, a mother of four sons, toasted the couple and called Gyude her “fifth son.”

Serving as minister of public works put Gyude at the epicenter of the Ebola crisis in Liberia. Ebola outbreaks had spread from Guinea into Liberia, first in rural areas, then in urban areas where it was difficult to trace the contact trail. Because early symptoms of the disease mimicked more common tropical diseases, such as malaria and cholera, outbreaks often went undetected until too late.

Gyude’s wife, Lakshmi, who works for an international anti-poverty organization, was in the U.S. giving birth to their son. She described the heartbreaking challenges – private and public – that her husband and their country faced, saying, “Gyude lost friends, family members of friends and colleagues.” She said that seemingly simple things, such as a lack of gloves and other protective gear for healthcare workers, contributed to the crisis. No routine protocols were already in place, so the burgeoning number of Ebola cases put the nation’s health system in crisis and healthcare workers at risk. The existing health system, which had a ratio of one doctor for every 100,000 citizens, was overtaxed, and many of the early victims were healthcare workers who had treated Ebola patients.

“I think it’s difficult for people who have never been at the center of such an outbreak to appreciate what a harrowing experience it is,” Gyude said of the impact the crisis was having on the Liberian people and their culture. “Imagine schools closing, offices closing except for a few essential staff. Imagine you can’t shake hands or touch other people. Imagine you can’t play sports or engage in any group activity in which people might sweat. Imagine you come to work and are suspicious of your coworkers because you don’t know if they’re taking care of a sick relative at home. Imagine sitting up one night and accepting that you would die, that it was only a matter of time because you couldn’t be careful one hundred percent of the time. It was a terrifying experience.”

Throughout the crisis, Gyude was an ardent ally with President Sirleaf in appealing for global assistance. “I was with the president when she made the decision to directly request assistance from the U.S. and Chinese governments,” he said. “Then we shared copies of her letter with some of our friends on Capitol Hill. I believe Sen. Leahy read President’s Sirleaf’s letter on the floor of the Senate. The contents of the letter also appeared in the New York Times. As each world leader received our request, major papers in their country carried the letter and asked what the government was doing to help. It was a satisfying experience knowing that those efforts would lead to a response.”

Gyude also took other actions. He wrote an open letter published by the Center for Global Development, spoke about the Ebola crisis along with Senator Jeff Flake in Washington, D.C., and conducted an interview on National Public Radio. Confronting the crisis required a total effort, Gyude says, noting that “other members of the Liberian government and friends of Liberia were also using their contacts to do as much as they could. And every bit counted.”

Even with the country’s borders closed, the spiraling number of Ebola cases put a strain on basic services. There was a lack of beds and too few Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs), which provided isolation and infection control protocols throughout the 21-day quarantine for patients. Gyude pointed out that due to the incubation period of the disease, if patients could not access ETUs, they simply went home, where family members and caregivers likely would become the next victims. Recognizing the critical need for ETUs, he was quoted at the time, “I go every day and try to see if we can speed up the ETUs. But even there we have problems. We’re to eventually scale up to 1,000 beds, there’s not enough medical staff trained to run these units.”

As the death toll continued to rise in Liberia and its neighboring West African nations, an impassioned plea for help was made to the U.S., Russia, Japan, Germany, Brazil, China, Canada, South Africa and Australia. It was a distress call that stated in part, “We need help. If we don’t build at least 1,000 beds in the next week and a half, we will be so far from shore in these uncharted waters, I struggle to imagine we would return to land. Whatever you can do, whoever you know, we need help. We really do. We are running out of time.”

The appeals for aid were effective and the response was tremendous. Help came from many nations and organizations, including Berea College students who initiated fundraising events to buy protective gear for Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières).

“It was a source of great pride that my alma mater would reach out to assist my country in our time of need,” Gyude said. “Obviously, it was not Berea’s first foray into assisting Liberia in time of great upheaval. Berea once played hosts to Liberian students who were allowed to finish their education when their lives were disrupted by the war in the early ’90s. I love that Berea raised funds to help with Ebola.”

Gyude returned to Berea’s campus this spring to receive the 2016 Berea College Service Award and speak at the service convocation. Established in 1979, the award recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding service to society in achieving the ideals of Berea’s Great Commitments. In his speech, he addressed the persistent patterns of power and privilege in communities that are perpetuated through enforcement of clear lines of separation or “margins.” He reminded his audience that by virtue of their education they each have a unique opportunity to erase those lines and prevent the marginalization of others in its many forms.

“There is something quintessentially American about Berea,” Gyude reflects. “It demands you ask questions; that you do not accept things simply as they are.”

Berea, Gyude’s alma mater, is one of the few places in the world that so demands you ask questions; that you do not accept things simply as they are. Berea is a community that demands you accept things simply as they are. Berea is a community that demands you ask questions; that you do not accept things simply as they are.
NANCY GIFT: Good Weeds and Sustainability

By Beza Moges ‘16

“My father was an economics professor at the University of Kentucky, so I grew up in Lexington,” explained Nancy Gift, Berea College’s Compton Chair of Sustainability. The first time Gift visited Berea was in the 1980s. “I remember coming to visit a friend, and we checked out the ‘Spaceship School’ and I remember thinking that I would want to live here one day.” (Designed in the 1960s, the resemblance between Berea Community School and an UFO has been noted by more than one unbiased observer.)

Twenty years after that initial visit, Gift now calls Berea home. But the journey to get here required a change of major, a career shift, and stops at Harvard University, the University of Chicago and Chatham University.

At Harvard, she started out as a mathematics major, but after taking a conservation biology class in her second semester, Gift switched her studies to biology. “I liked biology because I always liked to go outside, and I especially liked environmental science because it makes a connection between different fields of knowledge and how organisms interact with their environments.”

Afterward, Gift went on to study crop and soil science at the University of Kentucky. She attributes her choice of studying crop science for her master’s degree and her subsequent Ph.D. in weed science from Cornell University to her love for plants. “My grandmother was a wildflower person and I remember her telling me a lot of flower names. So, I wanted to do something with plants that is practical, and I applied to the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment at the University of Chicago. While I was there, I realized that there were no opportunities for me to do anything related to agriculture. I tried to set an extension agent in counties to help people solve their agricultural problems, but at the University of Chicago, there was not any such extension to speak of.” As a result, she taught environmental science-related courses part-time at the University of Chicago before she and her husband moved to Pittsburgh. There, she joined the Rachel Carson Institute at Chatham University. “Rachel Carson was an alum of Chatham University before she became famous for writing Silent Spring, the book that informed people that pesticides might not be all that good. So, in Chatham, I read her works and taught about them.”

While working at Chatham, Gift’s first book, A Weed By Any Other Name, was published by Beacon Press. “In 2007, I applied to give a talk at a conference by the American Society for Literature in Environment about Rachel Carson and her ethic on lawn care – specifically her claim that more pesticides are sprayed on lawns than on farms,” Gift says. At the conference, Gift was approached by an agent from Beacon Press who had read her abstract, attended her presentation and wanted to discuss the possibility of a book. A year later, the book was published. “It was pretty exciting because going into a conference thinking you are just giving a presentation and having it turn into a book doesn’t happen all the time,” she exclaimed.

Gift explained that each of the book’s chapters deals with a different type of weed, its biological and seasonal characteristics, as well as approaches that should be taken by lawn owners and others concerned. “It is what we call creative non-fiction, so it is factual but also a little creative to make it easy to read. Because, as far as I am concerned, if nobody reads your work, it doesn’t matter, and I have always wanted to write work that matters.” A second book has also been published: Good Weed Bad Weed: Who’s Who, What to Do, and Why Some Deserve a Second Chance. Gift also co-edited the Encyclopedia of Climate Change while at Chatham, and her first textbook was published this year.

While working at Chatham University, Gift found out about an opportunity to work for Berea College. “I was once advising a student and I pulled up Orion Magazine’s green jobs website, and there was a featured job for the Compton Chair of Sustainability at Berea. So I told my student to go explore the website and started applying for the job.” As Compton Chair of Sustainability and the Sustainability and Environmental Studies (SENS) Program, she works to infuse sustainability across programs in the curriculum. “I don’t see sustainability as a textbook or a field that you become an expert in. I want economists to understand sustainability, I want writers to know how to write about it responsibly and correctly and so on.”

According to Gift, some programs, such as agriculture, technology and applied design, biology and chemistry have already designed their own ways to move in a direction of teaching sustainable practices in their classes, but there is still work to be done. “There are other programs that are not ‘comfortable’ teaching sustainability, and I try to help more programs feel like sustainability is something we should all be teaching,” she added, summing up her responsibilities as an effort to make herself unnecessary. “If I do my job well, whether it is philosophy, psychology or physical education, they will know how to teach sustainability to their students and eventually, they would not need my help.”

Gift’s full circle has brought her back to Berea, a place she admired as a teenager. And through her position as Compton Chair of Sustainability, she is doing her best to help it become a center for educating the future generation on how to lead a sustainable life, as well as an environmentally sound college that can be a model for others.
By Beza Moges ’16

In fall 2015, the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service (CELTS) celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Bonner Scholars program along with its own 15th anniversary. The celebration included several activities and events involving current Bonner Scholars, staff and alumni. “Ask Me Why I Serve,” the motto of the semester-long celebration, was displayed on the back of the blue celebratory T-shirts worn by Bonners and other students affiliated with CELTS.
The roots of CELTS trace back to the mid-’60s and the start of Students for Appalachia, a vibrant community service program for several decades, and evolved through the years by adding more and more service programs and community partnerships under its umbrella. Currently, CELTS administers several programs through which students can serve their community, obtain valuable leadership skills, and integrate service into their academic and labor requirements, as well as their co-curricular college experience. Berea Buddies, Berea Teen Mentoring, Adopt-a-Grandparent, Habitat for Humanity, the Hispanic Outreach Program, the Service-Learning program and the Bonner Scholars program are only a few of the multiple service opportunities CELTS offers to students.

In 1990, Bertram and Corilla Bonner, founders of the Bonner Foundation, established the first Bonner Scholars Program at Berea College, making the College the first institution to be part of a network that currently spans 60 colleges and universities. Each year, Berea’s program admits 15 first-year students based on their scholarship, service activities and demonstrated leadership potential. The students are expected to remain with the program by holding a service-oriented labor position throughout their college years. During this time, the program guides them through a structured program of training in leadership and team-building skills and opportunities to work with community partners.

The students also get opportunities to network and share resources with fellow Bonners from other colleges and universities in Kentucky and beyond through gatherings like the Bonner Scholars program almost from its start. She still has that common passion for community service and civic engagement.

Because Berea’s Bonner Scholars program began the same year as the Bonner Foundation itself, they celebrated their joint anniversary during the Foundation’s annual Summer Leadership Institute at Davidson College. The Berea delegation included current Bonner Scholars, alumni, and community partners along with President Lyfe Roofes and Dr. Linda Strong-Leek, the vice president for diversity and inclusion. “It was a wonderful event, bringing together past and present Bonners, as well as the faculty and staff who work with them every day,” said Dr. Strong-Leek. “During such events, students not only see and understand the work of their current counterparts, but they also see the trajectories of many Bonners and know that there is a wonderful world of Bonners who are making a difference in the world.”

Ashley Cochran, director of CELTS, and the Service-Learning and Bonner Scholars Projects, said that CELTS and the Bonner Scholars program provide support to help students figure out how they can make a commitment to service and connect it to their academic journey and interests. “I think what’s unique about the Bonner Scholars program is that it is a four-year experience and it’s a cohort experience,” she added. “We select fifteen students from each incoming class of students who agree to be part of the program for all four years of their college life. So they get to connect with the students in their class who are different from each other in many ways, but who still have that common passion for community service and civic engagement.”

Shelia Lyons ’87, program associate of CELTS, has been part of the Bonner Scholars program almost from the start. She remembers the early years of the program to have been more challenging in that the students participated in...
that service to others was necessary and it has matured me in many ways by giving your teammates and work as a team. So, group, you’re required to spend time with thinking. Being immersed in the Bonner said, “It definitely has altered the way benefits the program has given him, he with his business major. Speaking of the helped him connect his interest in service termed service requirement, to return to his two-summer-long Bonner Foundation program’s Summer of Service feature, a he said. Hannah took advantage of the and also work my way through college,” –Aaron Hannah ’16

noted that the Bonner Scholars afforded her the opportunity to pursue her passion in peace and social justice. “It gave me the opportunity to learn the difference between community service and the service that heals me as well as the community that I am helping. It taught me not to view individuals or groups as victims but as someone who is struggling like me. It taught me that we can find freedom together.” After Berea, Kinlaw went on to earn a master’s degree from the University of South Carolina, and she currently teaches high school in Greenville, South Carolina.

“…” I looked for a way to make my work-study align with my goal in life. I found Bonner Scholars to be perfect for me in that I can help people and also work my way through college.” –Aaron Hannah ’16

Associate Professor of History Dr. Josh Guthman’s first book has been published by the University of North Carolina Press. Auser Roberts ’18 had the chance to speak with him about the path that brought him to Berea College and his interest in the Primitive Baptist movement.

How did you come to Berea? I found my way to Berea by a long and winding road. I first went to graduate school in the South at UNC-Chapel Hill. That was after I had grown up in Los Angeles, went to college in Chicago, and lived for a little bit in London, England. But my interests were in Southern history and Southern culture. That’s sort of how I found my way here, because there was a job opening here, and I knew about Berea and about its place in American history, and when I saw they wanted an American historian I thought, “Oh that’s me, you want me.” And, so yeah, here I am.

Since being at Berea, you’ve written a book and you book explores the history of Primitive Baptists. Can you tell me how you define Primitive Baptists? Yes, well, Primitive Baptists. Let’s go back to the beginning; that’s how I found them. I found them in (the history of) the early 19th century. And in the early 19th century to be a Primitive Baptist was to be somebody, a Baptist, an evangelical Protestant who had big problems with a lot of the things that were going on in Evangelical churches and in Protestant churches. Specifically, Primitive Baptists were against missions and missions in general. They were against formal theological training for ministers. They were against the entire apparatus that was being built up by Evangelical congregations across the country to serve other ends than simply preaching the Gospel directly to people in the pews. Primitive Baptists objected to all of this, and they also held firm to Calvinist tradition. Belief in predestination was absolutely crucial to them. They saw their world slipping away and they said “no” – things have to change. And so what happened was people who previously simply identified themselves as Baptists, separated and eventually called themselves Primitive Baptists.

Do you relate to the practice of Primitive Baptists in any way, and what motivated your interest in studying this group of people? I heard them first. I heard them singing, and it’s the sound that captured me. It was the sound of their singing that stopped me dead. I had never heard anything like it. It sounded to me at the time like people calling up spirits; it sounded luminous and it sounded funereal, it sounded mysterious. It reminded me of some old twisting cantorial melodies that I had heard in synagogue growing up as a Jew. Mostly I just found it mesmerizing and beautiful, and I wanted to know where this singing came from. Who were these people? Why were they singing like that, and how was that singing doing its magic on me? And so the project just started from there – this curiosity but also this kinship with the sound. And then, the more I listened to the music, the more questions I had. And then the more questions I had, the more I would do some more exploring and find out who these people were. And the more I found out about who the Primitive Baptists were, the more I thought, you know, there’s a story here. There’s a story here and I want to tell it.

The rest of Dr. Guthman’s interview is available online at www.berea.edu/magazine.

JOSH GUTHMAN

Jett Yates ’16

Hannah also stated that his position as operations manager of CELTS, joined the program due to his life-long interest in service. “My entire life had been driven around service work. I knew that Berea was a work study college, so I looked for a way to make my work-study align with my goal in life. I found Bonner Scholars to be perfect for me in that I can help people and also work my way through college,” said Cochrane. “Any student can come in and make service a part of their college experience right from their first weeks of college, and there will be space for them to engage with many social issues through our volunteer program. One of the things we say here in CELTS is that everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner. Our students are always learning from our community partners and service programs, but also from each other.”
Nana Lampton Named Berea College Trustee

Nana Lampton, chairman and chief executive officer of American Life and Accident Insurance Company of Kentucky (American Life) and of Hardscuffle, Inc., its holding company, has been elected to the Berea College Board of Trustees at the Board’s recent meeting. Each trustee is elected for a six-year term. “I am privileged to be a part of Berea College, whose mission is to raise people up to accomplish good things for the world,” stated Lampton. Lampton is a graduate of both Wellesley College (B.A.) and the University of Virginia (M.A.). Following graduate school, she returned to Louisville in 1966 to begin working at American Life, which her grandmother founded in 1906.

Lampton’s career began at the same time her hometown was in a significant rebuilding phase. She participated in the development of her company’s new office building, which was completed in 1973 and was the final design by noted architect Mies van der Rohe. Soon after, Lampton began her tenure with the Louisville Development Corporation, which has included four master plans for the city’s core, the latest of which she co-chaired with her goddaughter, Augusta Brown Holland. Later, she initiated the American Life building’s “living roof” in collaboration with Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest.

Lampton served on the boards of two NYSE companies, Constellation Energy Group and DNI; while continuing to work at American Life, which she evolved from retail insurance operations into a reinsur ance company. Throughout her career, leadership as a corporate citizen has led her to serve on a wide range of non-profit boards, including the Thomas D. Clark Foundation, the Warwick Foundation, the National Parks Conservation Association and Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, as well as being appointed by the governor with the Kentucky Heritage Council and the Kentucky Historical Society. In 2010 she established the Snowy Owl Foundation, whose mission is to care for nature, creativity and human need with imagination.

In 2013, she was appointed by the King of Morocco to the office of honorary consul. As one of the liaisons in the U.S. for the Embassy of Morocco, she develops cultural and business relationships between Kentucky, the region and Morocco.

Lampton earned her Master of Fine Arts in writing from Spalding University in 2004 and received an honorary doctorate in public service from Spalding in 2013. An author and four books of her poems, have been published and her paintings have been shown in exhibits in various cities. Her most recent book, Wash the Dust from My Eyes, was inspired by her grandfather’s diary as he trained for duty during World War I.

Ms. Lampton works in downtown Louisville, Kentucky, and lives on a farm in Goshen, Kentucky.


Once again Berea College is one of the nation’s best colleges for students seeking a superb education with great career preparation at an affordable price according to The Princeton Review. Berea is featured in the 2016 edition of Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Schools That Give You the Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck, a new book just published by the education services company.

To determine which schools to include, The Princeton Review chose schools based on ROI (return on investment) ratings it tallied for 650 schools last year. The ratings weighted 40 data points that covered everything from academics, cost, and financial aid to graduation rates, student debt, and alumni salaries and job satisfaction. The Princeton Review editors used data from the company’s surveys of administrators and students in 2014–15 and from surveys of school alumni conducted by PayScale.com through April 2015.

In addition to the profiles of the 2016 tuition-charging schools in the book, Berea was profiled among just nine tuition-free schools. Berea College also has been recognized previously for other accomplishments, such as its commitment to “green” and sustainable initiatives. “We find it very gratifying to be recognized among America’s top schools for affordability, especially since that is at the core of Berea’s mission,” said Dr. Max G. Ricks, president of Berea College.

Berea graduate moodnul Jahan ’16 won the 2016–17 Thomas J. Watson Fellowship prize of $30,000. Berea is the only school in Kentucky from which the Watson Fellowship accepts candidates. As one of 152 finalists who competed at the national level, Jahan received one of the 40 fellowships. For her fellowship, Jahan will engage in “Journey through Indigenous Drumming and Dancing,” will take her through Germany, Morocco, Spain, Peru, Ghana, Suriname and The Netherlands.

“Jahan has chosen to explore these art forms across linguistic, cultural and geographic borders,” Delving into the rich and ancient tradition of drumming and dancing, Jahan will gain first-hand exposure to the world’s most remarkable performers while learning the celtic power of rhythmic culture at a global level.

Jahan says this journey will be more than just exploring cultures and cultures. She explains, “My Watson project entails a journey both inwards and outwards, concurrently towards resourcelfulness, imagination, openness, and leadership, and to foster humane and effective partitipation in the world community—in short, to develop future leaders who are self-reflective, well-informed, mindful citizens of the world. Each year, about 40 students receive $30,000 each. To read Jahan’s project summary and those of the other 39 finalists, see http://watson.foundation/fellowships/pi/fellows.

Jahan Wins Watson Fellowship

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The Watson pool continues to be extremely competitive. “This year’s class of Watson Fellows comes from 21 states and eight countries. They exhibit a broad range of academic specialties, socio-economic backgrounds, and life experience. The 48th class of Watson Fellows will traverse 67 countries exploring topics ranging from climate change to incarceration; from technology empowerment to forced migration; from car culture to ethnobotanyology.

The Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, named after the founder of International Business Machines (IBM), offers graduating college seniors of “unusual promise” the opportunity to engage in one year of independent exploration and travel outside the United States. Its goals are to enhance the capacity for
2015 Weatherford Award Winners for Best Appalachian Books Announced

The winners of the 2015 Weatherford Awards are Nickole Brown’s Fanny Says (poetry), Robert Gipe’s Trampoline (fiction), and Studying Appalachian Studies: Making the Path by Walking, edited by Chad Berry, Shauoma Scott and Phillip Obermiller (non-fiction).

The Weatherford Awards honor books that “best illuminate the challenges, personalities and unique qualities of the Appalachian South.”

Granted by Berea College and the Appalachian Studies Association for 36 years, the awards commemorate the life and achievements of W.D. Weatherford, Sr., a pioneer and leading figure in Appalachian development, youth work and race relations, and of his son, Wills D. Weatherford, Jr., who was Berea College president from 1967 – 84. These winning authors were recognized at the 2016 Appalachian Studies Association Conference at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV.

Poetry Award

Nickole Brown’s Fanny Says (BOA Editions) is an “unreashed love song” to Brown’s late grandmother. A cross-genre collection that reads like a novel, this hilarious and often wrenching book is both a collection of oral history and a moving and lyrical biography that wrestles with the complexities of the South, including poverty, racism and domestic violence.

Though much of her childhood was spent in Deerfield Beach, Florida, Brown considers herself a Kentucky native. She graduated from The Vermont College of Fine Arts, studied literature at Oxford University as an English Speaking Union Scholar, and was the editorial assistant for the late Hunter S. Thompson. Currently, she is the editor for the Marie Alexander Series in Prose Poetry at White Pine Press, and is on faculty at the low-residency MFA Program in Creative Writing at Murray State University and at the Writing Workshops in Greece.

One Weatherford Poetry judge said about Fanny Says, “I’ve known Fanny my whole life because in her I see the personality and nuances of many Appalachian women.” Another said: “Fanny Says is a declaration of independence and strength for rural women told in innovative and interesting poems that never failed to get me excited about the art of poetry.”

Finishes for the 2015 Weatherford Award in poetry are Pauletta Hansel’s Tangle (Don Madres Press) and William Wright’s Tree Heresies (Mercer University Press).

Berea at U.S. Department of Education Meeting on Increasing Access and Supporting Strong Outcomes for Low-Income Students

On March 24, 2016, Berea College President Lyle Roelofs attended a meeting hosted by the U.S. Department of Education focused on highlighting institutions across the country that are making significant strides in increasing graduation rates among students eligible for Pell Grants.

“For students from low- and moderate-income families, a college degree is the surest path to the middle class in our country,” said U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King, Jr. “I applaud the colleges and universities that have taken measurable steps to open up this pathway and make it a successful one for students from all backgrounds. But we need these types of efforts to become the rule and not the exception. King continued, “Since the beginning of his Administration, President Obama has worked to ensure more Americans have the opportunity to get a quality, affordable higher education, with promising results – more students are graduating from college than ever before. But many American families still feel that college may be out of reach for their children.”

In a newly published report titled “Fulfilling the Promise, Serving the Need, Advancing College Opportunity for Low-Income Students,” the U.S. Department of Education says colleges and universities have a responsibility to expand access to all students and offer targeted support for low-income students. The report is also a call to action for institutions with significant gaps between completion rates for Pell Grant recipients and overall completion rates, as well as institutions that have positive outcomes but enroll too few low-income students. The Pell report is available online at http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/advancing-college-opportunity.pdf.

Roelofs said, “Considering the ongoing national discussion about affordability and access, we at Berea College find it especially gratifying to be recognized as a leader in serving the public good by educating talented, low-income students who become service-oriented leaders in Appalachia and beyond.” Roelofs also stated, “Nationally, fewer than 13 percent of low-income college students graduate by the time they are 24. At Berea, we graduate five times as many.”

Ted Mitchell, U.S. undersecretary of education, commented, “For us to thrive as a diverse democracy and for individuals to achieve their dreams of success, higher education must fulfill its promise of providing opportunity to all students, regardless of their race, gender or income level.” Mitchell continued, saying, “That opportunity means access, but getting into college is not enough. It’s getting in and getting through that matters. There are remarkable institutions around the country succeeding at making access and success a reality for low-income students. We need to learn from their leadership and spread the word about practices that work.”

The Department of Education conference with college presidents, trustees and campus leaders from across the nation was held to discuss ongoing work. Among those attending were several who represented colleges and universities included in the report. The event spotlighted the promising and proven practices developed by these institutions to advance success for low-income students, and encourage broader conversations among the field to accelerate this work.
JACKIE COLLIER ’80
NAMED ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS

Jackie Collier has been named associate vice president for alumni relations at Berea College. Collier, a 1980 Berea alumna, has a long history with the College. She previously served successfully as the director of Alumni Relations for many years before taking a similar position at Eastern Kentucky University.

In 2015, Collier returned to Berea College to provide leadership as interim vice president for alumni and college relations, then as interim associate vice president for alumni relations. In making the announcement about Collier’s appointment, Bernadine Douglas, vice president for alumni and college relations, said, “Jackie has provided invaluable leadership which, along with her abiding love and passion for the College, led me to ask her to remain with us in her ‘new’ role of associate vice president for alumni relations. I believe Jackie will create a strong vision for Alumni Relations, and I look forward to working with her.”

“I am thrilled to be ‘home’,” Collier said. “Berea is a wonderful place with a mission that continues to be timely and solid. I appreciate this opportunity to serve my alma mater.”

In overseeing the alumni relations operations, Collier leads staff members who focus on developing relationships with current students, assisting students transitioning from graduates to alumni and maintaining connections with the College’s over 18,000 alumni through regional events for alumni clubs all across the U.S., as well as through special events, such as Summer Reunion and Homecoming, that provide opportunities to welcome alumni back to Berea’s campus. Collier also works closely with College officers, the Alumni Executive Council and members of the Alumni Association to assist in alumni development efforts, to promote fundraising within the Association and to support the Great Commitments of Berea College.

WHO WILL BE NEXT?

Visit alumni.berea.edu/awards for award descriptions and to submit a nomination.
**BEREA FOUNDATION, ACADEMY AND KNAPP HALL REUNION 2016**

**SEPTEMBER 30–OCTOBER 2**

Brought to you by your Berea Foundation School Committee and the Berea College Alumni Relations Office

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
*Registration, Alumni Relations Office*

5:00 p.m.  
*Dinner on Your Own* 
Join dear classmates and enjoy eateries of your choice in Berea.

8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.  
*Old School Dance, Activities Room, Alumni Building* 
Join Foundation, Academy and Knapp Hall alumni and friends! Mingle and dance to tunes from the past.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1**

8:00 a.m. – Noon  
*Registration, Alumni Relations Office*

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
*Reunion Class Photos, Union Church steps (Rain site: TBD)* 
Photo will be split into separate groups.  
Academy 9:00 – 9:15 a.m.  
Knapp Hall 9:15 – 9:30 a.m.  
Foundation 1940s 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.  
Foundation 1950s 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.  
Foundation 1960s 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
*Ice Cream Social, TBD*

5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.  
*Class Mingling, Woodson Lounge, Alumni Building*

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
*Reunion Banquet, Boone Tavern*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2**

10:40 a.m.  
*Come join the Alumni Worship Service, Union Church* 
Berea College alumni will come together in faith.

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

- 5:00 p.m.  
  *Dinner on Your Own*

- 8:00 p.m.  
  *Old School Dance, Activities Room, Alumni Building* 
  _______ # attending

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1**

- Noon  
  *Reunion Luncheon Baird Lounge, Alumni Building* 
  _______ # attending (Cost: $15.00 per person includes registration fee)

- 2:30 p.m.  
  *Ice Cream Social, TBD* 
  _______ # attending

- 6:30 p.m.  
  *Reunion Banquet Boone Tavern* 
  _______ # attending (Cost: $25.00 per person)

**Deadline for registration is September 19.**
The Berea College Alumni Association enjoys hearing from Bereans from all over the U.S. and the world. The “Class Notes” section of Berea College Magazine (BCM) reports verifiable news that has been sent to the Association by alumni. BCM reports the news you wish to share with your alumni friends and associates. “Class Notes” reports careers, weddings, retirements, births and other items of importance to our alumni. Please include your class year and name used while attending Berea. Notes may be edited for style and length. Please note that our printing deadlines may delay the appearance of your class news. We will make every effort to put your information into the next issue of BCM, some delays due to printing schedules may occur. We appreciate your understanding. Submit class notes and photographs via email: alumninews@berea.edu.

1945
Robert B. Dodd moved into an assisted living home in Lake Mary, Florida. He is married to Vivoria and has a son and four daughters, two of whom live in Florida.

1952
Clara B. Bradley and Raymond Bradbury, Acad ’46, celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on November 28, 2015. Clara had surgery on July 27, 2015 for ovarian cancer and is now having chemotherapy. She is a survivor.

1954
Nancy Biddle McKerns and her husband, William, attended her 67th graduation reunion. They enjoyed meeting with classmates and seeing the changes around campus. Nancy has been ill because of a hip replacement. She is improving slowly and is comforted by friends and family.

Evelyn Glenn Walton retired as a teacher from the Martinville, Virginia City Schools. Her two daughters, Molly and Terri, live in Martinville, as do her three grandchildren, Stafford, Amanda and Justin. Evelyn wanted to say “hello” to all of her old classmates.

1958
Marion “Marty” Atkinson and Suzanne “Sue” Hille Atkinson are both enjoying retirement.

1959
Larry Baker and Annette Meeks Baker ’61 are retired and living in Hendersonville, North Carolina. They spend their time doing as they please. Their two children and three grandchildren live nearby.

1960
Dr. Bob Compton retired in summer 2015 after a distinguished career in physics and chemistry at both the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee (UT). An article about his career, as well as a photograph of him on the Berea College track team circa 1960, appeared in Causelations, a newsletter for UT physics alumni and friends.

1962
Celia Harper Miles is the co-editor of the October volume of It’s All Relative: Tales from the Tree. From 50 women North Carolina women writers, the fourth anthology since 2008.

Birth: a daughter, Carly Rose Evans, to Deanna and Holly Evans on October 21, 2015. Carly is the granddaughter of Carl Evans and Dr. Ann Evans.

1964
Ahmad Baharestan owns and operates a farm in Jefferson County, Tennessee. He also runs a mobile home park and is a landscape designer.

1965
George Spiggle and Nancy Spiggle have relocated to Spring Hill, Florida. They welcome a visit from any of their old friends. Contact them at gspiggle@gmail.com or nspiggle@gmail.com.

1966
Margaret Card Dayton, Ph.D., teaches in the Berea College Child & Family Studies department and resides in Berea with her husband, Adrian Dayton. Margaret was selected by the Berea College chapter of the national honor society, Phi Kappa Phi, to receive its “2015-16 Professor of the Year Award.”

E.G. Boyd was elected chancellor of Sullivan County, Tennessee, September 1, 2014 for a 5-year term.

Larry Templeton retired from Thornton Township High School district in 2001 where he taught industrial arts. Following retirement, he moved to Surprise, Arizona in 2004. Larry now works for the Transportation Security Administration. He and Patricia, was an ICU/CCU nurse for 26 years and is now retired. Larry and Patricia have two children, Jason and Patty.

1968
Roy Acker and Barbara Thompson Acker, Joanne Wilson Giambri, Gary Marcum ’67 and Carol Bundy Marcum ’68 recently got together for a mini-Berea reunion January 16-18 in Hop Clin, Ohio. They hope to have a mini-Berea reunion once a year.

1969
Patricia Ann Snowder and Joseph M. Snowder are enjoying retirement. They would like for fellow classmates to join them on Facebook to renew old memories in their 50-year class reunion approaches.

1973
Phillip Hedgepeth of Franklin, Kentucky, is chief of staff for the lieutenant governor of Kentucky and formerly chief of staff for the president of the Kentucky Senate. He has been married to Pat McDougal for 45 years. They have one daughter and two grandchildren.

1976
Anita Wren Ellis and Carson Ellis ’75 have three sons, Nathan, Justin and Jared, and four grandchildren, Cameron, Lucas, Chloe and Ryder. Jessica is a corporate workers’ compensation manager for Eastridge Packaging Inc. Carson retired November 3, 2015 after 31 years in management with Inland Markets.

1977
David Jennings and Judy Fitch Jennings ’76 retired from the Lee County School system in Beattyville, Kentucky. David was a counselor and Judy was a principal. They have three daughters, Sara, Mary and Ellen Grace. They’re enjoying retirement with their two grandchildren, working on their beef cattle farm, golfing, reading, traveling and working part-time. Their address is PO Box 56, Beattyville, KY 41311. Email djennings17@well.ca.net.

1979
Judy Hirschman works for Volunteer Braxton Hospital as an occupational health nurse practitioner at Fortica Corp, Aurora, North Carolina. She lives in New Bern, North Carolina. Married: Duane E. Lewis to Rox Nationstine in October 2015 on the couple’s 24th anniversary. Dr. Duane E. Lewis, a junior warden of Calvary
38 39

EPiscopal Church in Cincinnati Ohio, gave the welcome address at the dedication of the George E. Ferguson Gathering and Blessing of the Homestead Joins at the church on June 14, 2015. The status, by artist Timothy Schumacher, is a representation that engages Joan’s most fully marginalized in society. Shrouded in a blanket, the only indication that the status is in Jesus is the crucifix wound on the Host. The Rev. Canon William Willard ’55 performed the scripture reading for the ceremony.

1983 Danette Combs Crosby is a training specialist at the Wight-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, where she teaches instructors for the U.S. Air Force and is the team leader for a cadre of instructors. Danette may be reached at danette.combscody@us.af.mil.

1986 Randy Hays, vice president and dean of student life at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, was recognized with the Dr. Paul Howard Outstanding Service award at the 2016 College Personnel Association of Kentucky (CPA) conference held at Centre’s campus. The award recognizes extraordinarily accomplished professionals who have made significant contributions to the profession, campus, or state at the regional level.

Donna McClure serves as the eastern Kentucky field representative for the United States Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Donna also is the guest services coordinator for The Creek Church in London, Kentucky.


1989 John Williams is author and publisher of the Kentucky Election Home: A Rite of Kentucky Politics, which is available at Amazon.com. Her book chronicles the life of a young girl growing up during Reconstruction, following the Civil War in the turn-of-the-century. Jule arnes the book to encourage an interest in history and help readers realize that despite the time or place, life is full of challenges. She wrote under the pen name Mary Givens.

1997 Rod Carabell and Rebecca (Khalb) Carabell ’96 celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary in November 2015. The couple moved to Austin, Texas, in January 2016.

2001 David Wilson graduated from Concordia University-Chicago with a master’s degree in educational leadership. He teaches third grade for Columbus City Schools in Ohio. David and his wife, Nicole (Black) Wilson, reside in Berlin, Ohio with their three children.

2002 Marcella: Jessica Blankenship ’02 and Anthony Bray ’02 reside in London, Kentucky, where Jessica is a music teacher for Kentucky County Schools. Jessica holds a regional transportation planner. She can be reached at kytransportplanner@gmail.com. C.F. Morgan received the Walhoud-Campbell prize from Yale University for her writing in the drama category. She is one of nine recipients who were honored for their literary achievements or potential.

2004 Jessica Frasier ’09 and Jared Schmal ’09 married on April 9, 2016. They reside in Bexley, Ohio with a daughter, Madeline.

2005 David Wilson graduated from Concordia University-Chicago with a master’s degree in educational leadership. He teaches third grade for Columbus City Schools in Ohio. David and his wife, Nicole (Black) Wilson, reside in Berlin, Ohio with their three children.

2006 John and the Time Traveling Bicycle, recently released their latest album titled, “All I Got is You,” which is available on iTunes.

2008 Dr. Errinn Baby earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University in 2016. Dr. Errinn Baby is currently working in private practice.


2013 Terra Allen is the author of “The Road to Recovery” and has been a professional speaker since 2011. She is currently the director of the Center for Creative Healing at the University of Arizona.

2014 Jessica Powell accepted a position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a professor of Professional Education in Early Childhood Education and will support the university’s preparation of students in the areas of early childhood education and other early childhood programs. She is a former staff member at Berea College. J.C. is survived by seven children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

2015 Robert Lewis of 235 Land, Kentucky, passed away on January 22, 2022. He served as the equipment manager for Berea College at Berea College in December 2001. Robert Lewis was an avid soccer and equal opportunity advocate. He was the first African-American to graduate from Berea College’s College of Business Administration and received a master’s degree in management. He was a life-long resident of the Berea area and had been a political activist for many years.

2016 Jessica Powell ’14 of Green Cove, Florida, passed away on February 14, 2016. She was a member of the New Testament Church of God and was a teacher of religion and a host of loving relatives.

2017 of 2307 of Savannah, Alabama, passed away on January 31, 2016. She was a member of the American Legion and a partner in the 1960s.

2018 of 3431 of Danville, Kentucky, passed away on June 20, 2016. She was a member of the Church of God in Christ and a teacher of history and a host of loving relatives.

2019 of 2250 of Danville, Kentucky, passed away on July 30, 2016. She was a member of the Church of God in Christ and a teacher of history and a host of loving relatives.

2020 of 3624 of Berea, Kentucky, passed away on July 22, 2016. She was a member of the American Legion and a teacher of history and a host of loving relatives.

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taught elementary school for years before retiring in 1995. She attended Berea College, receiving her bachelor's degree in 1948. In 1953, she earned her Juris Doctor degree from Marshall University, retiring from the courtroom in 2002. She is survived by her daughter, Terry, a sister-in-law, Mimi, her beloved nieces, and several nephews, including a host of loving family and friends.

Mary Wilma Pigman Elkins '45 of Lexington, Kentucky, passed away December 22, 2015. She was a U.S. Navy Reserve radiologic technician and served on the Surgeon General’s staff for environmental issues and was the corporate vice president for environmental compliance at General Electric. She is survived by her children, Kenneth, Sally and Julie, two great-grandchildren, and a host of loving family and friends.

Paul F. Eamin, Jr., U.S. Navy ’45/47/49 of San Diego, California, passed away October 1, 2012. He served in the U.S. Army and Navy Reserves, as a flag officer duty and as a music director for the band. He is survived by his wife, Mildy, and a host of loving family and friends.

Luis Jim Ramirez Acuña ’49 of Fort Worth, Florida, passed away February 13, 2015. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and a member of the Aurora Writers Guild. He is survived by his daughter, Amy, and many loving family and friends.

Robert Allen Utharruthen ’50 of Springfield, Missouri, passed away December 13, 2015. In addition to Berea, he attended the University of Iowa and Furman University. He earned his bachelor’s degree in 1953. He then served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955, during which time he was a member of the 2nd Marine Division. He then served in Japan from 1955 to 1956, working as a translator and interpreter for the U.S. Army. He is survived by his wife, Helen, and a host of loving family and friends.

Dr. Jack Christler Morris, Fd ’52 of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away February 17, 2016. He was a professor of nursing at the University of Louisville School of Nursing, teaching over 30 years. He is survived by his children, Ruth, Ann, Judy, and a host of loving family and friends.

Dr. David Harwood Stewart ’53 of Centerville, Ohio, passed away September 3, 2015. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Kentucky in 1957 and his master’s degree in public health from the University of Michigan in 1963. He became a professor of history at Berea College in 1963 and served as its president from 1973 to 1982. He is survived by his wife, Margaret and two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a host of loving extended family.

Louisville Batten Hurst ’57 of Kentucky, passed away November 28, 2015. He was an attorney and a host of loving extended family.

Vita Sassa Archaeol ’57 of Seattle, Washington, passed away April 9, 2012. She was a member of the University of Washington and a member of the University of Oregon. She is survived by her children, Scott and Bev, and a host of loving family and friends.

Dr. Robert Archaeol ’57 of Union, Kentucky, passed away December 24, 2015. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army. He is survived by his children, Robert and Roderick, and a host of loving family and friends.

Ruth R. Sue Heaton ‘40 of Berea, Kentucky, passed away February 15, 2012. She was a World War II veteran who served in the Marines. She is survived by her daughter, Nancy, a host of loving relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward, and a host of loving extended family.
He was a sergeant in the U.S. Army for two years and Edna were married August 6, 1961 in Danforth. Elmer passed away September 8, 2014. He was preceded of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Elmer D. Smith, Jr. ’60 1960s wife, Silvia, one brother and a sister.

Dale retired and founded the Chess and Poetry at Greensboro with a master’s degree in American friends and family. Redskins fan. She is survived by her children, and play piano. Nancy was also an avid Washington Cloyd O. Bumgardner ’59 of Somerset, Kentucky, passed away January 13, 2015. He enjoyed reading his Bible and reminiscing with family and friends. Roy was a lifelong resident of Greenbrier County, and a member of the Frankford Presbyterian Church where he served as an elder, and was a retired teacher with many years of service in the Grundy County School System. Douglas was survived by his wife, Mariona, two daughters, two sons, three sisters, one brother, eight grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Charles Lanton Blevins ’53 of Clarksville, Virginia, passed away January 6, 2016. He taught math and physics at Thomas Edison High School in Fairfax County, Virginia for 35 years. Charles also served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a member of the United States Tennis Association and National Education Association. Charles is survived by his wife, Pat., four children, four siblings and seven grandchildren.

Frank W. Spencer ’60 of Sandusky, Ohio, passed away December 23, 2013. He worked and retired from Chesler Plastics (Sandusky, Ohio) International as a chemist. Frank was a member of Calvary Baptist Church and a former member of the American Chemical Society. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Kathy, two children, two grandchildren and many extended family members.

Lynn A. Rudy ’63 of Blue Springs, Missouri, passed away January 4, 2016. He worked as an operations manager for ADT Security before retiring in December 2013. Lynn enjoyed fishing, was an avid collector of various items including postage stamps, and enjoyed being the leader of his son’s Cub Scout Pack #271. He is survived by his son, Elliot, and a host of living relatives.

Daniel Lee Ledford, Fd ’68 of Edinburgh, Kentucky, passed away November 16, 2015. He was a writer and author, and had been a resident of Berea most of his life before moving to Edmonton.

Marine Elizabeth Dingus Ward ’76 of Martin, Kentucky, passed away January 7, 2014. She was a faithful member of the Martin Methodist Church and later Marrs Chapel Church of Christ. Pride, Iowa. Madisen is survived by her loving husband, Jerryl, a son, four brothers and a host of loving family members.

Kristen "Kee" Lea Norris ’79 of Hillbrol, Ohio, passed away February 26, 2016. She was the owner/operator of Noone Enterprises, a retail search firm in Hillbrol. Kris and her late husband, Edvard, also managed the Paint Factory Antique Mall. She is survived by her son, Kathy, two nieces, one great-nephew, and many extended family members and friends. She also leaves behind her beloved dogs, Buster and Sopha.

Dr. Byrd worked as a physician in the emergency department at Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport. He is survived by his loving wife, Cheryl, three children, two sisters and many nieces and nephews.

Marlene Allison Smith Faw ’60 of Parkersburg, West Virginia, passed away July 21, 2015. She was a long devotion to Erin United Methodist Church, and friends. Roy was a lifelong resident of Erin, Tennessee, and is survived by three siblings, Polly, Tom and many loving family and friends.

Cloyd O. Bumgardner ‘59 and Jacki Hoffman Bumgardner, Fd ‘65 of Harlan, Kentucky, passed away December 12, 2015. He worked and enjoyed being outdoors. Leona was a member of the Berea Baptist Church. She is survived by her beloved dogs, Buster and Sophie.

Leona was a member of the American Family Therapy Academy, National Historical Society and Clergy and Laity Unit of Kingsport, Tennessee, Dr. Keith H. Byrd ‘61 and many loving family and friends.

Marlene Elizabeth Dingus Ward ’76 of Martin, Kentucky, passed away January 7, 2014. She was a faithful member of the Martin Methodist Church and later Marrs Chapel Church of Christ. Pride, Iowa. Madisen is survived by her loving husband, Jerryl, a son, four brothers and a host of loving family members.

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