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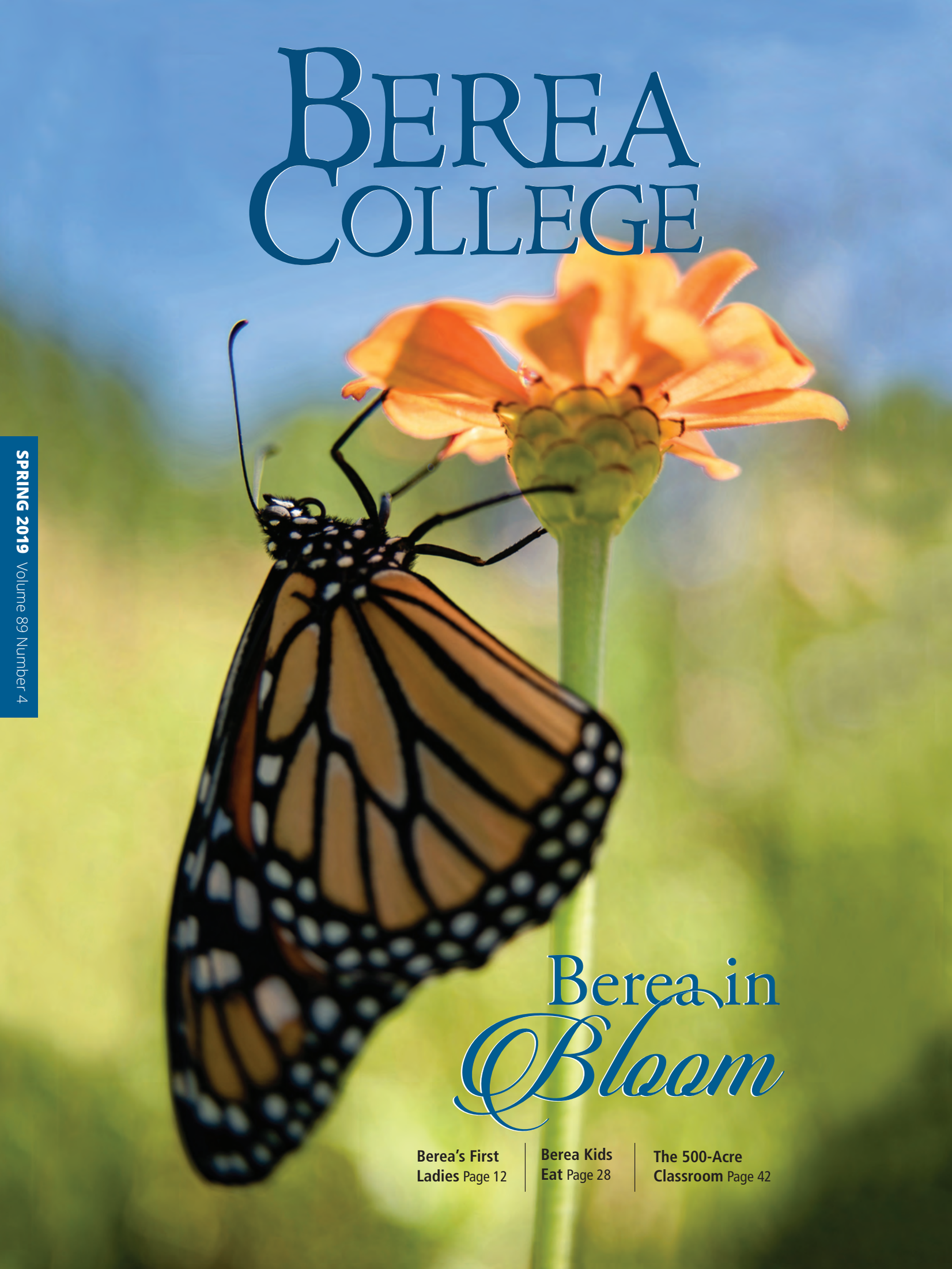

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Berea in Bloom

BEREA COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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Berea College Special Collections & Archives

Jennifer Lance '20

Cover Photo by Rodney Kimbangu '20

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Savannah Radmacher '18

Moriah Avery '21

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Berea Alumni and Friends,

What does it mean to "Bloom where you are planted?" First, it starts with an action—bloom. To bloom is to flourish or to thrive. To bloom is to produce something new and beautiful. This issue is packed with stories of unique programs and people striving to create something new—from the seeds of research, relationship or just plain curiosity.

Second, "where you are" indicates contentment but not complacency. We sometimes don't have control over where life takes us, but we can choose to put down roots and flourish in any circumstance. You'll uncover, beginning on page 12, that Berea's first ladies hailed from a variety of backgrounds, but when they joined their presidential partners on Berea College soil, they each left an indelible mark on the College. And our current first lady, Laurie Roelofs, has turned her home and "backyard" into a haven for butterflies to flourish. You can learn more about how Mrs. Roelofs has used "where she is" to gratify her zeal for education and the environment on page 19.

Third, "planted" entails intention. At Berea College, very little happens by chance. For more than 160 years, Berea has acted with intention to carve out a place for its ideals and commitments. But Berea didn't just plant itself in one place and tend to one beautiful bloom. Berea College, through its staff, faculty, students and alumni, is always seeking budding new ways to reach into the region and out to the world and help others thrive. The Berea Kids Eat program, featured on page 28, began with one church, one street and one small idea to plant a garden. Today, through partnerships with Grow Appalachia, Berea College and many others, the program has grown to serve more than 18,000 meals to hungry Berea community children and has become a full-time job for alumna Martina LeForce '07, who is the program's founder and director.

On page 10, discover how one donor's 1938 experience at Berea's Lower Division set him on a course to patent more than 900 inventions, and how he hopes to develop Berea as a leader in solar energy.

As students blossom into successful alumni, and alumni become integral donors, and Berea's many friends branch out as positive voices for the institution's mission, I am reminded of the words of alumna Starry Walker's poem, "Where There is Gratitude There is Growth," in which she encourages all Bereans, "To be planted. To grow into pillars worthy of our communities. To turn from caterpillars to butterflies to fly away to make a difference. To find unity in our differences. To be planted and rooted in love and opportunity alike. Here, in this Kentucky soil—in the heartbeat of Appalachia."

There are many more intriguing and inspiring stories in this issue that I hope will encourage you to find ways to bloom where you are planted.

Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03
Editor

Berea faculty, staff and students respond to what it means to "Bloom where you are planted" at **https://magazine.berea.edu**

Finding Themselves *and Each Other* THROUGH ART

By Jason Lee Miller

Knox Appalachian School, in Barbourville, Ky., is a place where students could benefit from a little success in their lives. Kids "in the system" come here when their parents lose custody to the state or when they need a soft place to land after being in detention. They live on site at the Appalachian Children's Home, for which the school was built.

"A lot of these kids struggle with school," said Kenny Smallwood, head teacher at the Knox Appalachian School. "They have many struggles. For the most part it stems from parent issues—a lot of the parents aren't involved."

The teachers there are limited in what they can provide students, so they focus on the core curriculum. Outlets like sports, music or the arts are not readily available or funded. Then in fall 2018, an opportunity presented itself in the form of an "art summit," organized by Partners for Education (PFE) at Berea College.

The summit was being held at Buckhorn Lake State Park in Perry County, nearly two hours away. Smallwood gathered up half a dozen children he thought could benefit, and together they made the trip. They joined 121 other fourth through 12th-grade students from five Promise Zone counties. Promise Zones are high-poverty communities working with federal and local partners on a number of revitalization efforts in southeastern Kentucky. The students met five regional artists who would conduct hands-on workshops with them in music, visual art, media arts, theater and writing. The artists also would conduct week-long residencies at their school in the months following the art summit to produce group art projects.

"We didn't know what to expect," Smallwood said, "but all of them enjoyed it and had an experience they wouldn't have had otherwise. It's a way for kids to succeed. Not everybody's good at school, but for some kids, art is their outlet, and they can have success at that. That's what we're trying to do: find something they can be successful at."

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Students, Alyvia Abner, Dakota Brown and Blake Hammons, from G.R. Hampton Elementary collaborate on a sculpture during a hands-on workshop led by artist Bob Montgomery at the Arts Connect Appalachian Youth Summit last fall.

The summit was made possible by a new program at PFE called Arts Connect Appalachian Youth (ACAY), supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. The five artists invited to lead the workshops and residencies included media artist Tammy Clemons; musician Taylor Dye; theater, film and community arts producer Robert "Bobbyb" Martin; sculptor and visual artist Bob Montgomery; and author and poet Judy Sizemore. Partners for Education coordinates the program in conjunction with the Kentucky Arts Council, Kentucky Educational Television and the Kentucky Highlands Corporation, lead agent for the Promise Zone.

"Arts education gives students, especially in our region, an opportunity to explore, self-express and engage with regional artists in their community that they may not ever have another chance to meet," said Natalie Gabbard, arts and humanities project director at PFE. "Other than sports or academic competitions, these students don't have opportunities to come together with students from other schools in the region."

The region includes Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knox, Leslie, Letcher, Perry and Whitley counties, and also Owsley County, which gained national attention in recent years after being dubbed the poorest county in the country. The ACAY program encourages students to think about place, what cultural aspects of the region are important to them and what traditional art forms are relevant to their communities.

"It's not necessarily that every group has to write a Bluegrass song or paint landscapes of mountains," cautions Sarah Campbell, PFE's arts integration coordinator. "It's just having a sense of why where you're from matters and has value."

Learning to be proud of and to value where they are from is a key need for students from disadvantaged areas. Judy Sizemore led some groups of students in writing "Where I'm From" poems, a writing exercise popularized by Kentucky poet laureate George Ella Lyon. Sizemore said that experience sparked something in the Owsley County students, who have already moved on to plan what they would work on during the upcoming residencies.

Film and community arts producer Robert "Bobbyb" Martin was one of five artists invited to lead the workshops and residencies at the Arts Connect Appalachian Youth art summit.

The plan had its roots in another project produced a few years ago by the adults in their community after national media, unfairly in their opinion, portrayed the county as one of the worst places to live in America. The local residents, feeling exploited and misunderstood, crafted a performance piece called "Home Song" based on interviews with community members about why they loved living there. "Home Song" was the collective effort of local writers and musicians.

"People like Anne Shelby, Bobbyb Martin, Mitch Barrett, and others in Owsley County put their heart and soul into it," Sizemore said. PFE also played a role in producing "Home Song," in partnership with the Owsley County Action Team.

For the Owsley County teens at the art summit, ACAY presented them with the opportunity to envision their own "Home Song," and shine a light on the

Author and poet Judy Sizemore led the students in writing "Where I'm From" poems. She said it was a powerful exercise in self-expression.

area's challenges from a youth perspective.

"It was so critical for them to be able to do that," Sizemore said. "That was what was on their minds. They identified some incredible problems kids today in these communities are facing, and it was so powerful that they were looking at their own lives and saying, 'We're in a state of crisis, and we need to articulate that.'"

Hazard High School students Jarrod Hoskins (left) and Abby Stoffell participate in a hands-on video production workshop led by KET staff at the Arts Connect Appalachian Youth Summit in November.

Sarah Campbell is the arts integration coordinator for Partners for Education.

Natalie Gabbard is the arts and humanities project director for Partners for Education.

Challenges they face in their home communities was a unifying thread for many of the students at the summit. "Art's always about something, so it also connects in terms of whatever that content is," Campbell said. "Both kids from the Knox Appalachian School and Owsley County brought up that the opioid crisis is something that is impacting their lives, and they want to talk about it in a serious way."

But for the kids, it's not merely the chance to practice arts and express themselves. It's also about being with other kids like themselves.

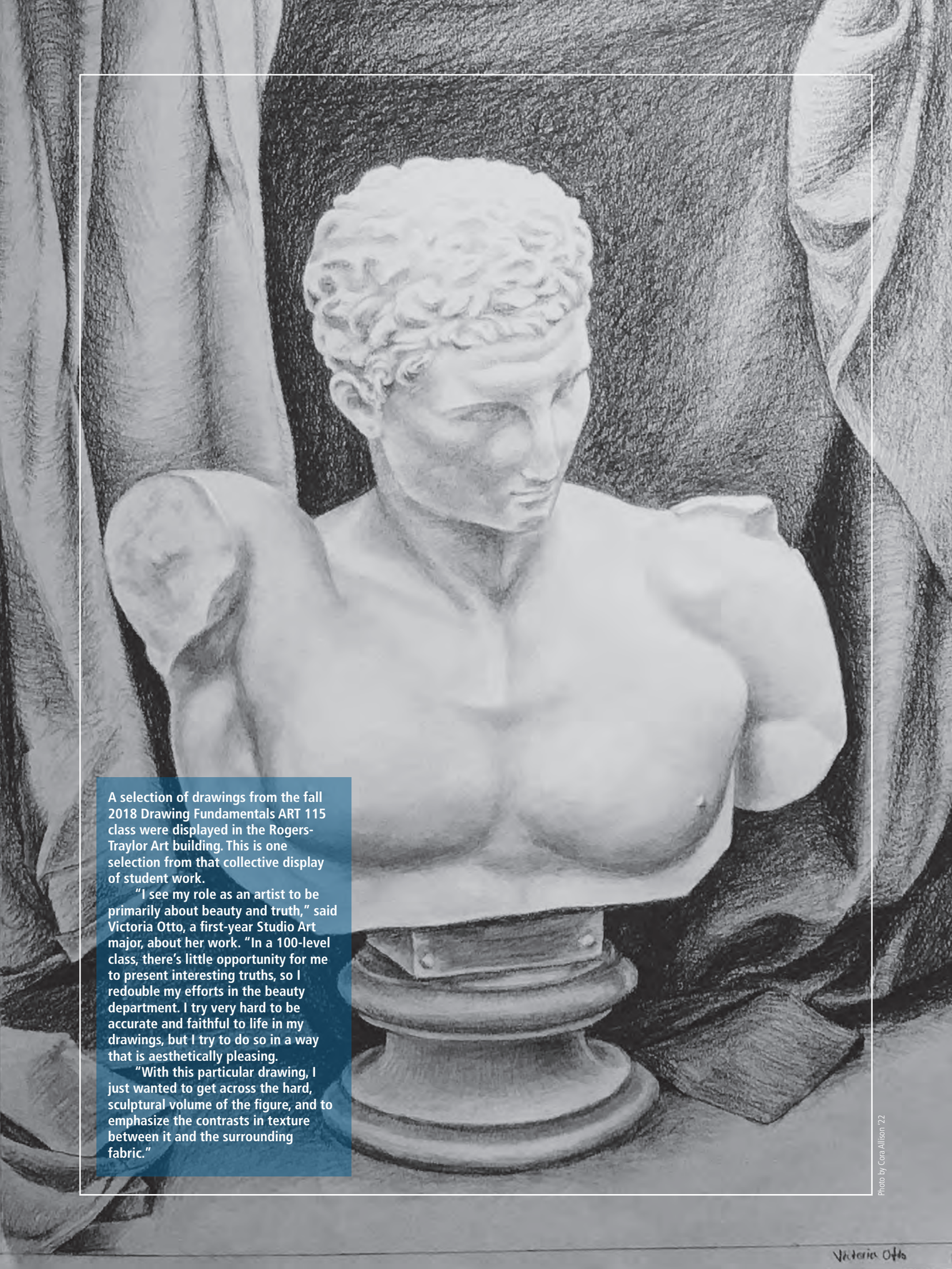
"For them," said Campbell, "it was really valuable just to come together with other creative kids from across the region. They got to celebrate what they really loved, and they want more of it."

"What I liked most," said 15-year-old Joshlyn Gay from Leslie County, "was bonding with the other students from around Kentucky—making friends who are interested in the arts." Gay said she liked art because it gives her a way to express herself with or without using words. "I can portray a story in a paint stroke," she said, "or a landscape in a verse."

Robin Garrison, who teaches English and visual performing arts and theater at Leslie County High School, said opportunities like the art summit and residencies give students who are interested in the arts a sense of purpose in addition to regional connections.

"Berea has done a really outstanding job of reaching out to the poorer schools and the schools that don't have as much going for them and letting these kids know there's a life out there for them in the arts," Garrison said.

With residencies in both the spring and fall semesters this year and another art summit, the students will work with one resident artist on group projects, and Sizemore will rotate through all nine schools. Their work, which could be a sculpture, video, poem or performance, will be used in an "Arts Connect" communications campaign highlighting the importance of arts education.



A selection of drawings from the fall 2018 Drawing Fundamentals ART 115 class were displayed in the Rogers-Traylor Art building. This is one selection from that collective display of student work.

"I see my role as an artist to be primarily about beauty and truth," said Victoria Otto, a first-year Studio Art major, about her work. "In a 100-level class, there's little opportunity for me to present interesting truths, so I redouble my efforts in the beauty department. I try very hard to be accurate and faithful to life in my drawings, but I try to do so in a way that is aesthetically pleasing.

"With this particular drawing, I just wanted to get across the hard, sculptural volume of the figure, and to emphasize the contrasts in texture between it and the surrounding fabric."

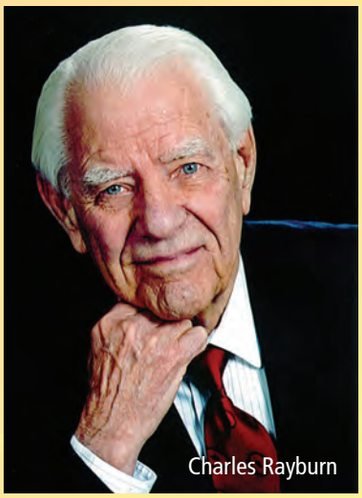
Photo by Cora Allison '22

Victoria Otto

Berea's Bright Future

By Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03

In 1938, Charles Rayburn left kerosene lamps at home in the hills of Lewis County, Ky., to switch on electric lights at Berea's Lower Division (high school). Electric lights and electric motors were in broad use. Radio waves carried speeches and music hundreds of miles away, but the potential for what electricity could become was completely unknown. While at Berea, Rayburn took an electricity course with Mr. John Fenn '37, who introduced him to a subject that would be the basis of his entire career.


Charles Rayburn

Fenn's shop was interesting, Rayburn, now 95 years old, recalled. On one end sat gasoline engines for cars. A radial airplane engine was suspended at eye level. On the other end was the electrical shop.

"I was fascinated by electricity," Rayburn said. "Strangely, the exposure to electricity in Mr. Fenn's shop directed my life."

Rayburn went on to have a distinguished career as a physicist and inventor, with 914 inventions protected by 78 U.S. patents and also licensed in Europe and Japan. Many of his inventions focus on electronic components used in radios, televisions, computers and other electronic products.

After returning from World War II, Rayburn was not able to return to Berea College because enrollment was filled. He earned his undergraduate degree 81 miles away from Morehead State University and a master's degree in physics at the University of Kentucky. However, he credits Berea with changing his life and now wants to impact future students the same way his experience in Fenn's class impacted him.

In 2017, Rayburn launched his "Big Idea" for Berea College, funding a solar photovoltaic laboratory in the newly opened Margaret A. Cargill Natural Sciences and Health Building. He is contributing significant funding for solar energy programs that will set Berea up as a leader not only in solar energy but also in training students for employment in this flourishing industry.

With Rayburn's big idea serving as a launching pad, Berea has taken a multi-disciplinary approach to draw students into a variety of areas to learn about solar energy. In October 2018 eight faculty and staff members and several students met with Rayburn to discuss ideas and directions for solar studies that currently exist or could be developed at Berea. These participants represented agriculture and natural resources, the College farm, physics, chemistry, business, psychology, technology and applied design and sustainability.

Chemistry

During the 2016-17 academic year, Mary Robert Garrett, associate professor of organic chemistry, used her sabbatical to take her previous research on organic synthesis—the study of how to build molecules—a step further. She looked at how to apply organic synthesis to the bigger picture.

"The bigger picture ultimately is, 'How can we improve upon the current methods of harnessing solar energy in an environmentally-friendly and cost-effective way?'" Garrett said.

In her research, Garrett explored the synthesis of thermoelectric materials, which take energy from heat sources and put it toward mechanical energy. She successfully accessed compounds that demonstrate potential as thermoelectric materials that had not been made before and made many variations of these compounds. However, there was one variation she was not able to synthesize with that method.

"[That variation is] particularly appealing because I want to see how this new modification can impact the energy efficiency of these compounds," Garrett explained. "We're trying to build blocks that haven't been built yet."

Garrett will be working with five students this summer to continue studying these chemical reactions to hopefully make the variation that was unsuccessful during her sabbatical.

"I will work side by side with students on these projects as research partners," Garrett said. "They will see the process and practice the techniques with me. That's how they learn the skills. A few of the reactions I've done before and some I havent't attempted, so we'll be learning together."

This is just one way Garrett is introducing solar research to students. She hopes to teach a 100-level chemistry class to introduce more students to these solar energy concepts.

"The aim is to get more students involved in and intrigued by the idea of solar energy," Garrett said. "I'm hoping this gives students with different professional goals an interest in the application of chemistry to renewable energy."

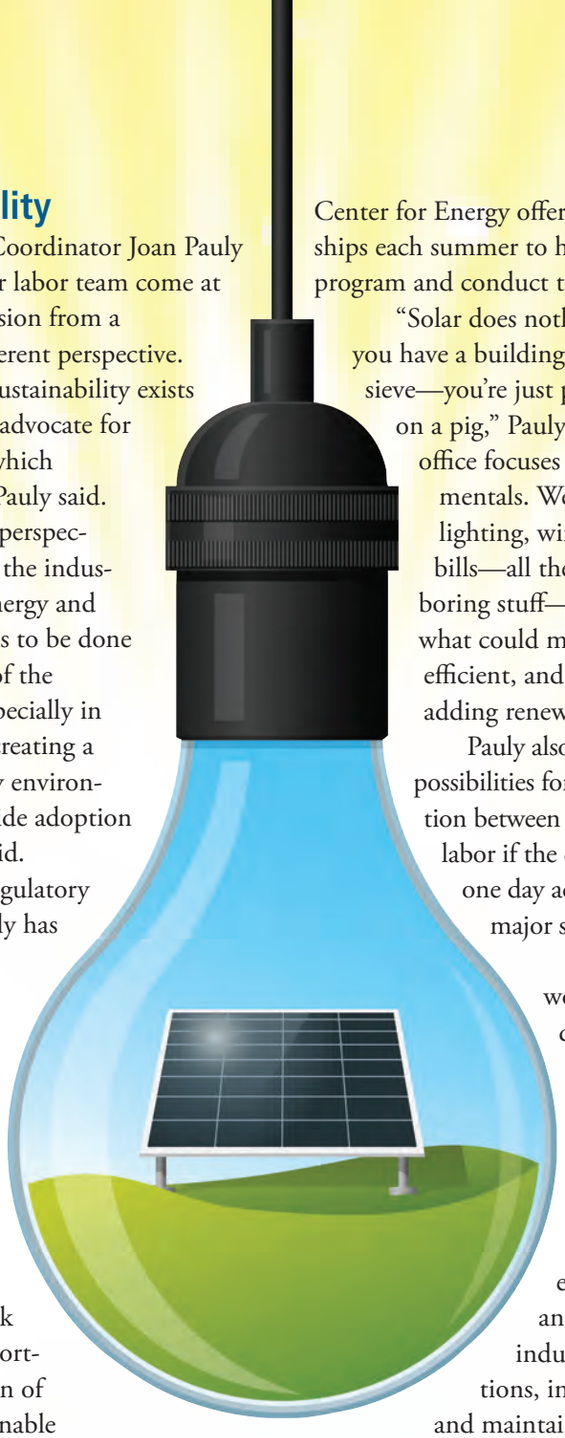
Sustainability

Sustainability Coordinator Joan Pauly says she and her labor team come at the solar discussion from a completely different perspective. The Office of Sustainability exists to educate and advocate for sustainability, which includes solar, Pauly said.

"From my perspective, looking at the industry, the most energy and effort that needs to be done in many parts of the world—and especially in Kentucky—is creating a favorable policy environment for the wide adoption of solar," she said.

To effect regulatory legislation, Pauly has worked with sustainability non-profits to organize an Advocacy Day, where constituents are paired with representatives in Frankfort to talk about how important the adoption of solar and sustainable building practices is to our future. Pauly hopes to collaborate with interested groups on campus to create a "Berea College Advocacy Day" with these same objectives.

In addition, the Office of Sustainability coordinated with Partners for Education to receive a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to establish the Berea Center of Energy. The center, in collaboration with a certified energy manager, conducts energy audits on small businesses in eastern Kentucky to show how they can make improvements to reduce energy costs as well as receive grant funding to help offset project costs to implement these improvements—including adding solar technologies. The Center for Energy offers two internships each summer to help promote the program and conduct the audits.



"Solar does nothing for you if you have a building that is a leaky sieve—you're just putting lipstick on a pig," Pauly said. "So our office focuses on the fundamentals. We look at lighting, windows, energy bills—all the practical and boring stuff—then we look at what could make them more efficient, and then we look at adding renewable energy."

Pauly also envisions future possibilities for close collaboration between academics and labor if the college could one day adopt solar as a major source of energy.

"Berea students would be in high demand for so-called 'green jobs' combining a strong liberal arts degree with hands-on experience, and potentially industry certifications, installing and maintaining solar projects on campus," she said.

Technology and Applied Design

Technology and Applied Design assistant professor Wei Wu took a group of Berea students to the American Solar Challenge Solar Car Conference in February. The four students joined 250 others from 26 colleges and universities on the campus of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where Wu worked for the SIUE solar car team for a year while completing her master's degree. The conference facilitated student learning, teamwork and interactions with experts in the field. The students also connected with solar car teams from other universities, such as Appalachian State University in North Carolina, whose team invited Berea students and faculty to visit their campus and learn more about its solar car program.

The event organizers also offered the Berea team an opportunity to join the national U.S. solar car event this summer in Texas.

"This will be an excellent opportunity for students to learn about solar energy, automobile technology, communication, teamwork and logistics," Wu said.

In addition, Wu's connection to SIUE led to the university donating an old solar car to Berea in fall 2018. Wu applied for funding through the Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Program that allows students to work on this car throughout the summer, replacing some missing key elements and hopefully getting the car running by the end of summer 2019. Wu says she plans to study the solar car in her classes next year in work toward designing a new car.

This is just a sampling of the ways solar energy already has permeated Berea's programs. Though the development of solar energy curriculum may still be a few years off, faculty members are interested in professional development in the area with the possibility of incorporating solar energy in a variety of already established courses across several academic departments.

Rayburn's "Big Idea" will serve as his big legacy as he hopes to propel Berea to the forefront of solar energy in the nation. But he sees this opportunity as a gift from Berea to him.

"Where else could you purchase a factory to crank out solar scientists for the bright future?" Rayburn asked. "Thank you, Berea."

FROM TEACHER TO NOBEL WINNER

Chemist, Dr. John Fenn '37, was an American research professor who was awarded a share of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2002 for his work in mass spectrometry. His Nobel medal is on permanent display in the MAC Building on campus.

Berea's Firs

Information and photos provided by Sharyn Mitchell FD '65, BC '69, Rachel Vagts and Harry Rice, Berea Hutchins Library Special Collections & Archives.
Summaries by Daniela Pirela-Manares '20

In 2016, Temvelo Matsebula '18, a student archives associate with the Special Collections & Archives was conducting research for Women's History Month. Finding little information on the spouses of Berea's presidents, she began a quest for more information on these First Ladies of Berea. Their stories reside in Archives and are told through their diaries, church histories and committee minutes. They are mentioned as "one-liners" in the College archives and sometimes in paragraphs in inauguration reviews. Despite the scant coverage, Berea's First Ladies made an impact on the continuing success of Berea College.

"All of them made significant contributions," said Sharyn Mitchell, Special Collections & Archives research specialist. "It is probable many made significant sacrifices as well."

Matilda Hamilton Fee

Matilda Fee didn't know how much her life would change when she married John G. Fee in 1844. She witnessed the horrors of slavery, which motivated her to join him in supporting the establishment of antislavery churches. Her childhood home, in Bracken County, Ky., near the Ohio River, was a final stop along the Underground Railroad, where her mother once served a slave owner tea while an escaped enslaved African hid in the basement. Later on, she joined her husband's mission to found Berea College, the school that would change many people's lives. In 1859, while Rev. Fee was detained in Cincinnati, she had to gather up her children and escape an angry mob of men opposed to the mission of the school. She returned alone to Berea in 1862 as the Civil War raged in the nearby Battle of Richmond, which had prevented her husband from returning. During her time as first lady of Berea College, she was president of the Ladies' Board of Care, served in the Council of the Dean

t Ladies

of Women and was a member of the Women's Temperance Union. Fee took on the role of friend, sister and mother to not only her six children, but the community as well. Among her various contributions, she organized and led prayer meetings and helped grow the early Berea community. Fee said she never regretted that her name and fame were bound to that of her husband, and her devotion to the College and its cause are evident in her life and death. She died in 1895 and is buried in the Berea Cemetery. Matilda Fee is now remembered as a pioneer and old-fashioned heroine who was as brave as she was faithful. Later, President William Frost would say she was "a friend, a sister, a mother to us all."

John and Matilda Fee

Maria

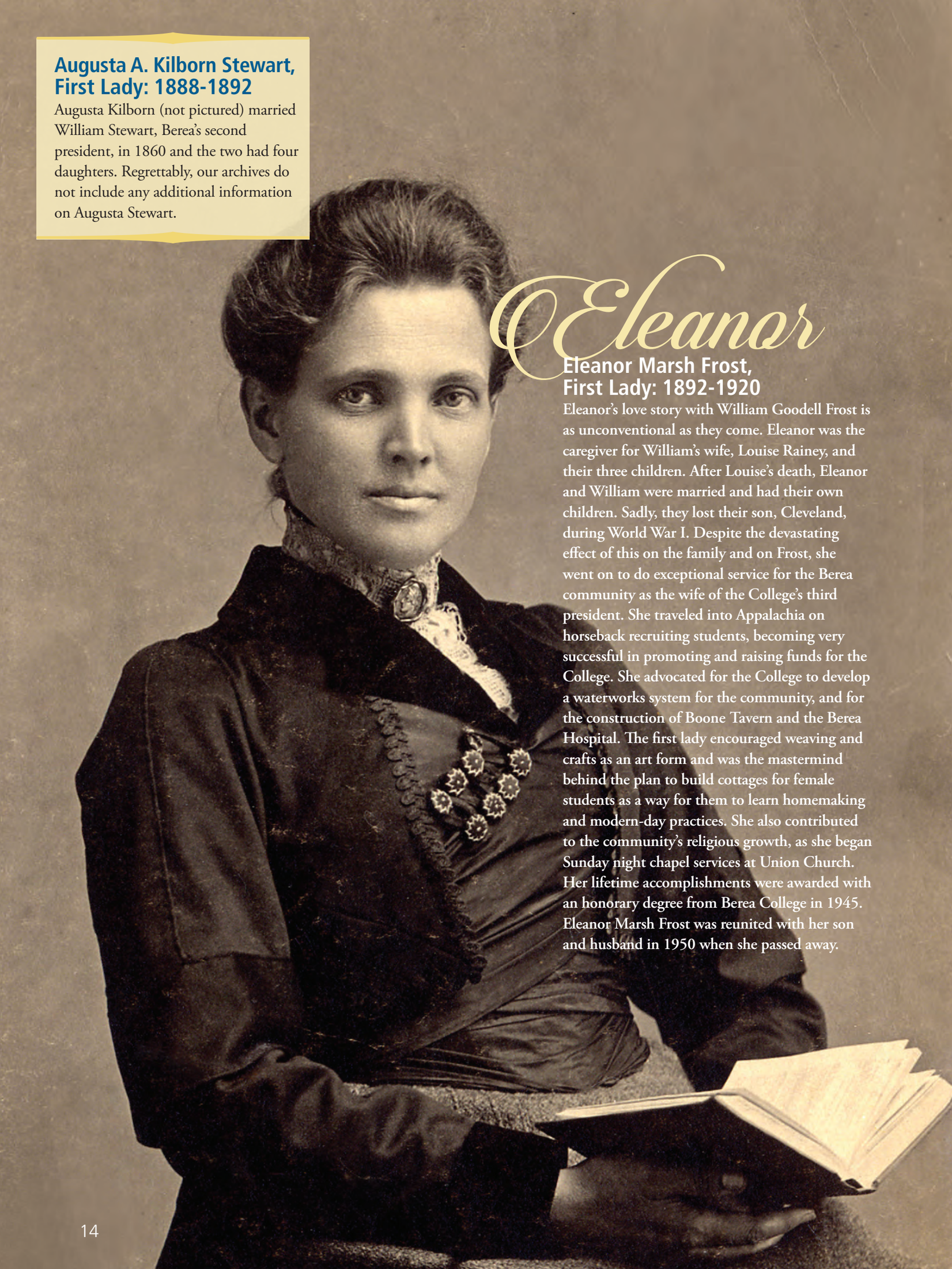
Maria Ball Babbit Fairchild, First Lady: 1869-1888

Fairchild Hall, ca. 1920. Ladies Hall was renamed Fairchild Hall in honor of Maria and Edward's daughter, Marie. Unfortunately, Berea's archives do not contain any photographs of Maria Fairchild.

Maria Ball Babbit's life was promising from the beginning. She met her future husband, Edward Henry Fairchild, at age 13 when they gathered for a prayer meeting. He would later become the first president of Berea College. She served on the Council of the Dean of Women from 1869 until the day she died. Fairchild passed her love for Berea to her children, as one of her sons became a professor at the college, another one was an alumnus. Ladies Hall was renamed Fairchild Hall in honor of the couple's daughter, Julia Marie. Bad things often happen to good people, and Fairchild was afflicted by a debilitating illness; her husband watched her while she slept to ensure she didn't injure herself. Despite that, she remained devoted to the College and is the only first lady to die "in office." She is buried in the Berea Cemetery. Maria Fairchild was an active member of the Berea community, and her influence and legacy remain in the College to this day, being remembered as kind-hearted, affectionate, sincere and honest.

Augusta A. Kilborn Stewart, First Lady: 1888-1892

Augusta Kilborn (not pictured) married William Stewart, Berea's second president, in 1860 and the two had four daughters. Regrettably, our archives do not include any additional information on Augusta Stewart.



Eleanor

Eleanor Marsh Frost, First Lady: 1892-1920

Eleanor's love story with William Goodell Frost is as unconventional as they come. Eleanor was the caregiver for William's wife, Louise Rainey, and their three children. After Louise's death, Eleanor and William were married and had their own children. Sadly, they lost their son, Cleveland, during World War I. Despite the devastating effect of this on the family and on Frost, she went on to do exceptional service for the Berea community as the wife of the College's third president. She traveled into Appalachia on horseback recruiting students, becoming very successful in promoting and raising funds for the College. She advocated for the College to develop a waterworks system for the community, and for the construction of Boone Tavern and the Berea Hospital. The first lady encouraged weaving and crafts as an art form and was the mastermind behind the plan to build cottages for female students as a way for them to learn homemaking and modern-day practices. She also contributed to the community's religious growth, as she began Sunday night chapel services at Union Church. Her lifetime accomplishments were awarded with an honorary degree from Berea College in 1945. Eleanor Marsh Frost was reunited with her son and husband in 1950 when she passed away.

Listen to and watch three of Berea's first ladies in action at **https://magazine.berea.edu**.

Anna Laura Murch Hutchins, First Lady: 1920-1939

Despite being naturally shy, Anna Laura Murch Hutchins accomplished great things during her life. The wife of Berea's fourth president, Dr. William J. Hutchins, she was known for caring deeply about people. Sending flowers to distressed members of the Berea community to comfort them was one of the many sweet gestures she made to quietly minister to the needs of people. The Oberlin and Mount Holyoke College graduate was also a devout member of Union Church and an avid reader who talked to her library friends about books she enjoyed re-reading. Anna Hutchins is remembered as a gentlewoman. She was an exceptional mother to all of her children; her legacy included two sons who became college presidents: Robert Maynard Hutchins, president of the University of Chicago and the fifth president of Berea College, Francis S. Hutchins.

William and Anna Hutchins

Louise

Louise Gilman Hutchins, M.D., First Lady: 1939-1967

Louise Gilman was born to be a helper. Born in China to missionary parents, she dedicated her life to the well-being of others. During her life, she moved back and forth between her two homes, the United States and China. She graduated from Wellesley College in 1932 and married Francis S. Hutchins the following year. Louise Hutchins earned her M.D. from Yale University in 1936. After graduating from Yale, Hutchins returned to China to live with her husband, who was serving as an administrator for the Yale-in-China program, and to complete her medical internship caring for refugee children. It was during her internship in China that Hutchins became interested in family planning and maternal health services. In 1939, she returned to the U.S. after her husband accepted the presidency of Berea College. During this time, Hutchins served as the only pediatrician of the town until her retirement in 1967. Even after that, the Planned Parenthood supporter continued her devotion to the healthcare of children and indigent mothers. She helped establish and served as president and board director of the Mountain Maternal Health League. For years, the league provided health services and contraceptive information to patients who were geographically isolated. After receiving an honorary degree and retiring from the College, Hutchins carried her work back to Hong Kong, where she completed a residency in gynecology. In 1970, Louise Hutchins' work finally brought her back to Berea, where she continued to help improve the lives of children and women in Kentucky until her death in 1996.

Francis and Louise Hutchins

Anne Cobb Smith Weatherford, First Lady: 1967-1984

One could say Anne Cobb Smith was an exemplary teacher and Christian. She earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Swarthmore College, where she met her husband, Willis D. Weatherford Jr., who was to become the sixth president of Berea College. While serving as first lady, her passion for teaching became more evident as she taught basic math to first-year students. Her interest in race relations and the peace movement led her to serve as vice president for the Kentucky Human Rights Commission and as board member of Hindman Settlement School in Hindman, Ky. An active member of Union Church, she also earned a master's degree in religion from Lexington Theological Seminary. Upon retirement from the College in 1984, she moved to North Carolina, where she worked as the director of Christian Education at Grace Church in Asheville for 10 years until her health failed. Anne Weatherford is remembered fondly as a powerful prayer partner, a gracious southern gentlewoman and as not only a teacher, but a lifelong learner.

Jane Baucom Stephenson, First Lady: 1984-1994

Jane Baucom had a dream. A native of the Appalachian region, she grew up in a rather isolated mountainous region within rural North Carolina. From the early years of her childhood, she learned the social expectations and cultural restrictions that society placed on girls. In a world without social media or other technological advancements, she learned about the outside world through her father, business manager at the Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, N.C. He encouraged and inspired her to go beyond these social and cultural restrictions to prove the role of Appalachian women was not simply to marry and have kids or serve the community as a teacher or nurse. Instead, she was encouraged to demonstrate that Appalachian women were well-equipped to follow other academic and professional pathways and worthy of recognition for their achievements. The future first lady dreamed of a school that would focus on building self-esteem, leadership and job skills in rural adult women. As the wife of the seventh president, John B. Stephenson, she turned her idea into reality when she founded and became the director of the New Opportunity School for Women. In addition, during her time as first lady, she focused on non-traditional students and their learning. "I believe if you educate the mother, you educate the entire family," she said. Stephenson lived her life by those words. Her master's degrees in business education from Appalachian State University and in higher education administration from the University of Kentucky underscore her lifelong commitment to learning. She was also the author of two books, "Courageous Authors: The Stories of Nine Appalachian Women" and "Dear to My Heart: The Story of the New Opportunity School for Women." In 1995, Berea College bestowed an honorary degree on Jane Stephenson for her commitment to service and lifelong learning.

Larry and Nancy Shinn

Nancy

Nancy Lee Albright Shinn, First Lady: 1994-2012

Whenever you saw Nancy Lee Albright, she was teaching children. A fast learner, she took just three years to earn her bachelor's degree in education from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. Albright then married her high school sweetheart and future eighth president of Berea College, Larry Shinn. After his graduation, they moved to Israel, where she taught for two years in Ramallah. Upon returning to the U.S., and finding herself dissatisfied with her level of education, she pursued advanced work at the McGuffy School (Miami of Ohio) and earned a master's degree in education from Bucknell University, specializing in early childhood education. A mother to two daughters and a mother figure and teacher for many other children, she taught first grade and kindergarten for 25 years before coming to Berea College. As an extension of her passion for working with children, she was involved in community service and leadership as well. During her time as first lady, she was a member of various boards including the Southern Bluegrass Citizen Review Panel, Children's Action Network, Kentucky River Foothills, Head Start and Hospice Care Plus. Devoted to her Christian faith, she served on Union Church's Board of Deacons and took part in the Christian Education Board in developing plans for nursery and kindergarten rooms. Nancy Shinn's life-long accomplishments are equaled only by her great love for children and their education.

Taking Flight

Laurie Roelofs' shared passion for butterflies and Berea students

By Daniela I. Pirela Manares '20

Laurie Lauren Mulder Roelofs, First Lady: 2012-present

Imagine walking along the trails of Alumni fields and finding a path leading to what looks like a beautiful garden. As you approach the garden, you begin to see grassy pathways, all sorts of flowers and finally, butterflies. Butterflies of all colors fluttering above and around you. You come closer to smell one of the flowers and see the bright colors of a monarch butterfly pass by.

This place exists thanks to the efforts of Berea College First Lady Laurie Roelofs. Roelofs cares about teaching and being connected to the environment, and she has dedicated both her life and her time as first lady to promote it.

For the first five years of her working career, Roelofs was a registered nurse and the head nurse for a 52-bed surgical floor. She later became a teacher and a mom. She also has been a supportive partner of President Lyle Roelofs, whom she married 43 years ago. Their love story started on a college campus as well, when Laurie met Lyle during her first year at Calvin College in Michigan.

Behind the President's home, past the Alumni fields, is Laurie Roelofs' "secret garden." It is open to anybody to see the flowers and butterflies that are there.

Jennifer Lance '20

"Of all the various jobs I've had, this is so far the busiest, yet most rewarding one of all," she said with a smile. As first lady, she is part of multiple committees on campus, including the Frost Committee which oversees the Historic Boone Tavern Hotel and Restaurant. She represents the City of Berea on the Community Operations Board for the Center for the Arts, and is active with the Progress Club and various Berea women's clubs. Her responsibilities also include traveling with the president, visiting donors to promote the College and its mission and welcoming many, many visitors to the president's home.

In addition to her duties as first lady, Roelofs loves to talk about the work she has done for the environment and, particularly, monarch butterflies.

It all began 20 years ago, when she was as a teacher. While teaching children about the life cycle of monarch butterflies, the magnificent creatures captured her heart.

"I worry about them; we aren't careful enough with nature or the creatures out there," Roelefs said.

With climate change and droughts, monarchs often must endure harsher weather in their over-wintering sites in

Mexico. Also, logging in those forests (until it was prohibited recently) has resulted in habitat destruction. In places north of Mexico, where they spend their summers and go through several generations, spraying crops has reduced the milkweed population necessary to their life cycle.

"To improve crop yields they spray the fields, which is bad for the butterflies and the milkweed around," Roelofs explained. "The monarchs need milkweed to lay their eggs."

Monarchs are not the only pollinator population that is under stress, of course. Other butterfly species and bees are also affected by pesticides. For this and other reasons, the Berea College Farm follows strict organic protocols and chemicals are not used on Berea's campus. Some butterfly species overwinter here and their chrysalises, intended by nature to be disguised as little leaves, are often thrown away as part of fall clean-up of flower gardens.

Seeing all this damage and the lack of awareness moved Roelofs to take her teachings beyond the kindergarten classroom to advocate for environmental practices that support monarch and pollinator populations. Bringing this interest with her to Berea, she has started several monarch waystations on the Berea College campus. Monarch waystations are gardens or areas that provide the milkweed necessary for the monarch life cycle, shelter needed for the chrysalises and flowering plants as a food supply for butterflies and other pollinators.


Rodney Kimbangu '20

A monarch butterfly spends about 10 days in the chrysalis stage, transforming from a catepillar into a butterfly. "Watching the butterflies is like seeing Berea College students," Roelofs said. "I like seeing them grow and become what or who they are meant to be."

"Watching the butterflies is like seeing Berea College students," Roelofs said. "I like seeing them grow and become what or who they are meant to be."

Roelofs now collaborates with biology professor Dr. Ronald Rosen, who, upon seeing under the microscope a monarch egg collected by the first lady, was captivated. He added a unit to his laboratory class in which students collect eggs in one of the monarch waystations, observe the entire life cycle of the monarch and then release it once it has grown.

The first lady herself has been raising butterflies for educational purposes for more than 18 years, and in Berea she and her monarchs have visited kindergartners at Berea Community Elementary School (thanks to their Berea alum teacher, Belinda Cummins Riddle) and students from the Child Development Laboratory have visited the president's home to help release them.

"I go and find the eggs," Roelofs said. "I don't order them online because I don't like monarch farms or the idea of butterflies being shipped in little cardboard boxes. Once I've found the eggs, I bring them home."

Once hatched, she feeds the caterpillar fresh milkweed and, when it is big enough, she puts it in a cage on a stalk of milkweed for it to climb up and down as it pleases, as if it were in its natural environment. Eventually, it suspends itself from a stalk or the top of a cage and turns into a chrysalis.

Once the butterflies emerge from the chrysalises, she keeps them for a day to make sure their wings are suited for flying and then releases them at the waystations.

With help from wonderful Berea staff members Rose Adams, Valerie Frost and Janet Meyer, Roelofs' efforts also include the creation of a "secret garden," located in the brushy area of Alumni


Jennifer Lance '20

Laurie Roelofs welcomes students into her home and enjoys interacting with them, learning about their backgrounds and stories. In one of his lab courses biology professor Dr. Ronald Rosen incorporated a unit in which students, with Roelofs' help, collect a monarch egg from one of her monarch way stations, observe it throughout its stages of development and change, and then release the butterfly when it matures.

fields, down the hill behind the president's home. Anyone can visit to see the flowers, birds, butterflies and other insects, all enjoying the area.

She does not expect everybody to raise butterflies, but hopes rather, that everyone will become more careful about the environment.

"Keep it simple," she explained. "I always tell people to plant nectar sources, to avoid spraying or to talk to a county commissioner about not spraying the roadsides, because milkweed can grow there."

Roelofs believes people want to learn, just like her students always have. "I used to tell the children I taught, 'Respect our classroom, respect each other, respect the environment,'" she said.

Roelofs said there are many ways to help the environment, and she emphasized how important it is for future generations. As a continuation of her efforts toward the preservation of nature, Roelofs plans to look into Berea being designated as a bee campus—to recognize it is a good environment for these important creatures and other pollinators and to promote environmental awareness to our many visitors.

"It scares me how we don't seem to be taking these things seriously," she said. "I have grandkids, and I want there to be butterflies for them." B

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Pictured: **Benjamin Willhite, '18**

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2019 Summer Reunion Registration

June 14-16

IT WILL BE A SPECIAL REUNION YEAR FOR THE CLASSES OF:

1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964,1969, 1974, 1979-1989

Date: _____ Full Name: _____
(first, birth name, and last as it will appear on name tag)

Class Year: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____ Spouse/Guest Class Year (if applicable): _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 14th

- **Town Hall Forum with President Lyle Roelofs:** 5 p.m.
  Planetarium, MAC Building
- **Picnic on the Quad:** 6-8 p.m. (Class photos will be taken during the picnic)
  Casual gathering with designated seating provided for special reunion classes.
  _____ # attending (Cost: Early Bird tickets are $15 ($20 after May 1)

SATURDAY, JUNE 15th

- **50th Reunion (Class of 1969) Breakfast:** 8 a.m., President's Home
  Hosted by Pres. Lyle Roelofs and First Lady Laurie Roelofs
  _____ # attending (No Charge)
- **Alumni Awards Ceremony:**
  10 a.m., Boone Tavern Event Center
  Rodney C. Bussey Award of Special Merit:
  Jackie Grisby Burnside '74 & Virgil Burnside '74
  Alumni Loyalty Award: Peter Thoms '55
  _____ # attending (No Charge)
- **Summer Reunion T-shirt:** $15 each
  _____ # of T-shirts
  Select size(s):
  S_____
  M_____
  L_____
  XL_____
  2XL_____
  3XL_____
  4XL_____

- **Class Luncheon:** 12:30 p.m., Boone Tavern
  _____ # attending (Cost: Early Bird tickets are $20 ($25 after May 1)
- **Berea College Sweetheart Reception:** 2:30 p.m., Fireside Room, Draper
  For couples who met at Berea College _____ # attending (No Charge)
- **Alumni Reception:** 5 p.m., Boone Tavern - Mingling and hors d'oeuvres
  _____ # attending (Cost: Early Bird tickets are $10 ($15 after May 1)
- **Class of '69 Gathering:** 7 p.m., Boone Tavern Event Center
  _____ # attending (No Charge)
- **Party of the Decade:** 8-11 p.m., The Garden behind Boone Tavern
  Celebrating the classes of 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989, but everyone is welcome!
  _____ # attending (Cost: Early Bird tickets are $10 ($15 after May 1)

(Checks payable to Berea College)

Contribution to Berea Fund $_____

Ticket Costs $_____

Total Amount $_____

❑ CHECK (Check Number _____)

If paying by credit/debit card, please complete online registration at **www.berea.edu/alumni/sr19** or give us a call and we'd be happy to help.

Optional - If you plan to attend, please leave a question you would like answered during the Town Hall Forum with Pres. Lyle Roelofs:

_____

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Song request for Party of the Decade:

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HOW TO REGISTER

Online: www.berea.edu/alumni/sr19

Phone: 866-804-0591 (toll free)

Mail: Berea College Alumni Relations,
CPO 2203, Berea, KY 40404

Putting Meat on the Bones

Meet Berea's petite archive researcher who tells the College's story in a big way

Watch Sharyn Mitchell's research in action at **https://magazine.berea.edu**

By Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03

As a little girl Sharyn Mitchell hated history because it was boring—it was all memorizing dates and didn't pose any kind of challenge. But today, she is a research services specialist in Hutchins Library Special Collections & Archives. Mitchell spends most of her days digging through tangible pieces of history to tell the story of Berea College and its students from years gone by and making historical connections for often little-known events that surround Berea's unique history and the people who contributed to it.

That little girl's journey to become the historical excavator she is today was a lifetime in the making.

"Life took me to crazy places because I didn't have a good focus," Mitchell admitted. "If I get good at something, I'm ready to move on to the next thing; I'm ready for the next challenge."

This crazy path gave her all the skills and fervor she needed to be the excellent researcher she has proven to be in Berea's special collections and archives.

A self-proclaimed gypsy, Mitchell and her family have lived all over central Kentucky. They were living in Winchester when Mitchell started school in an all-Black, one-room school house. She comes from a family of teachers, so she could already read and write by the time she started school. She recalls her mama saying Mitchell was "teaching the teacher"—she wasn't getting anything out of school there. Her grandmother, Mama Nancy, taught at Middletown School in Berea, so Mitchell's mother decided to send her to Berea for school.

Every Monday morning, 5-year-old Mitchell would hug her mama and board a train from Winchester to Berea. The train, which ran right behind Middletown school, would arrive right around time for morning recess, and her grandmother would drive to the train station to collect her and bring her to school. And every Friday, they did the reverse.

Mitchell lived this cyclical life for two years before returning to Winchester to attend a newly opened integrated school where she and her sister and two other children were the only Black students in attendance. After only one semester there, they transitioned again to a city school in Lexington.

By the time she reached high school, Mitchell found her way back to Berea to attend the Foundation School and stayed to enroll at Berea College in 1965. Because she began first grade at only 5 years old, Mitchell recalls always feeling inferior around people in her grade because she was always younger.

Jennifer Lance '20

In the seven years Sharyn Mitchell FD '65, BC '69 has worked in the Hutchins Library Special Collections & Archives, she has become intimately familiar with the types of information, photographs and documents in the vault.

Family members of Robert Yahng, chairman of Berea College's Board of Trustees, visited the campus for the first time. Because of the family's three-generational ties to the College, they visited special collections where Sharyn pulled information and photos relating to their parents and grandparents.

"I get along better with older people than I do with my own generation," Mitchell said. "So when you're around older people, you hear their stories."

The love of storytelling and taking the time to listen to others' experiences is another mile marker along her journey to her career as a researcher of stories.

At the height of the Vietnam War, Mitchell decided to leave Berea College her sophomore year. Her boyfriend at the time joined the Air Force, but she was too young and too short—at only 4 feet 10¼ inches tall—she said, to follow suit. He went to Vietnam, and eventually the two married and moved to Ohio and had two children. But it wasn't long before Mitchell yearned for a career. She dreamed of being a science librarian—partly because her mother had been a biology and chemistry teacher and partly because she had worked in the library at Berea all but one semester and loved the work.

She completed her education at Kentucky State University, working numerous jobs to make ends meet and searching for a career she could love—all the while, picking up bits and pieces that would perfectly shape her for the career to come.

She worked at a radio station, she worked at the post office. She worked in the Social Security office as a claims rep, where she learned how to talk to people from all walks of life.

"I've never had a problem asking people questions," Mitchell said. "I interviewed everyone from trash collectors to CEOs. Everyone gets to the Social Security office at some point."

One of the jobs she had while working in Frankfort was going down into the vital statistics vault once a month and getting marriage and death certificates for people who requested them from out of state. In the vault, the records were kept chronologically and alphabetically. One day she found a birth certificate with race marked as White, and then marked out and changed to Colored, with a doctor's note in the margin that said, "I'll tell you about this one when I get to town." Perplexed, Mitchell told her mother about the odd certificate with a familiar name.

"Momma said, 'Everyone knows it was the insurance man who was the daddy,'" Mitchell recalled. "And that's how I got into genealogy."

Using a mess of sticky notes and random slips of paper, Mitchell learned to love researching Madison County families and found herself hunting around court houses, libraries and cemeteries.

She moved on to work with federal and state disability claims. Next, Mitchell and a friend decided to tackle the real estate business. She obtained her real estate and broker's licenses and continued her research, looking at property deeds. Then, she moved on to work in a personnel office, before taking positions with Buffalo Trace Distillery and Jim Beam.

After Mitchell's mother passed away in 1990, she rented out the family home for nearly 20 years. But in 2011, she and her husband decided to move into the house themselves. When her husband became ill, and she didn't want to

> "I've never had a problem asking people questions. I interviewed everyone from trash collectors to CEOs."
> – Sharyn Mitchell

Sharyn Mitchell grew up in and around Berea and has made a hobby of researching Madison County genealogies, especially in the African-American community.

Sharyn Mitchell often helps staff members, like Content Strategist Jason Lee Miller, research for various projects, publications or teaching resources. Her natural curiosity makes each new project exciting for her to explore.

commute to Frankfort every day, she took a leap of faith, gave her notice and settled in back in Berea.

Mitchell found her way to campus any time she could, and one day, talking with Alicestyne Turley, director of Berea's Carter G. Woodson Center for Interracial Education, Mitchell learned about a research position open in the library.

A member of the Yahng family flips through photos with Sharyn Mitchell relating to his father and grandfather and their family's three generation connection to Berea College.

"I went right over from her office to HR and put in my application at 10 a.m., and by 2 p.m., I got a phone call scheduling an interview for Monday," Mitchell said. "I interviewed Monday and had the job on Wednesday."

The research position was supposed to last only a year, but has kept Mitchell busy for nearly seven years now.

"I've been prepared for this all my life because of all the jobs I've had," Mitchell said. "It's like if you have a jigsaw puzzle, and there is a piece of blue, and you think it's sky, and then you walk in one day and realize it's really water. And you turn it around differently and see how it fits. Life is like that. When you see all the pieces, then it makes sense."

So when people request information on a grandparent or someone who attended Berea College, Mitchell doesn't just tell them, "Yes, they attended from this date to this date," she looks for information about their labor position, the dorm they lived in, any clubs they were involved in.

"I call it putting the meat on the bones," Mitchell said. "Not just dates, but where were they living, why did they do this or that and what did they look like? If you can put the meat on the bones, make the stories come to life and figure out what was going on in history, it all comes together and makes sense."

One highlight: there was a month when Mitchell and the special collections team's research helped the College raise a half a million dollars from donors who were so thankful for them going the extra mile, Mitchell said.

Through her natural curiosity, love of research and making connections, Mitchell has helped innumerable people, campus departments, alumni families and community members track down fascinating information that they could not have gotten anywhere else.

"Life after Berea—I don't know what that will be," Mitchell said. "But the connections that I'm making here open up all these opportunities. Right now, I just want to get the Berea story out."

SHARING HISTORY

In 2011, Sharyn Mitchell headed up a research group called the African American Genealogy Group of Kentucky (AAGGKY). After spending years in libraries across central Kentucky researching African American history and genealogy, she connected with others who wanted to consistently share the fruits of their research. On the third Saturday of each month the AAGGKY meets at various places around Kentucky sharing findings, making connections and enjoying fellowship with like-minded individuals.

According to Mitchell, African American research is different. "Where you find the records is dicey," Mitchell explained. "A lot of times Whites will say, 'I am ashamed that my family had slaves.' I reply, 'But then our history is found in your books. It's in your diaries and your wills. So the shame is if you don't give it back and let us know where it is.'"

For more on a piece of Mitchell's own genealogical findings, read about her research on George White online at **https://magazine.berea.edu/article/unearthing-the-forests-lost-history**.

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This bounty of tomatoes and beans grown in the garden behind the church helps decrease food insecurity for Berea's children and their families. Children involved in the garden project set up a roadside stand to sell the crops and raise money for school clothing and supplies.

Martina LeForce '07

Berea Kids Eat

How a garden and a little faith feeds an entire community

By Jason Lee Miller

About halfway down Morgan Street, in Berea, a stone marker memorializes the place where Berea College founder Reverend John G. Fee began his mission. The stone reads: "UPON THIS SITE STOOD THE OLD GLADES CHURCH IN WHICH UPON INVITATION OF CASSIUS CLAY JOHN G. FEE FIRST PREACHED IN BEREA 1853."

Here was the budding ambition to reach out to the underserved and a call to plant the seeds of equity. The community chased him off, not merely disinterested but adamantly opposed. Today, in the same spot, a different community rises to meet a new and noble challenge: feeding hungry kids.

A lot has happened since Fee's first sermon. The old church was torn down and Glades Christian Church was built in its place across the creek. Rick Fulton, senior minister there, describes a period of time when the church was "invisible," a problem remediated only by the erection of a pizza chain across the road and associated traffic. Even then the church was nearly nameless, known locally as "the church across from Little Caesar's."

The monument marking the location of the old church is now the centerpiece of a Berea Housing Authority neighborhood, where public housing residents struggle to make ends meet. Minister Fulton, rueful of not knowing the church's nearest neighbors well, sought in vain ways to establish a relationship. Then one day, Morgan Street families came to him.

"After years of reaching out," Fulton said, "they were coming to us with a request." They wanted to use the little patch of land behind the church to plant a garden. "We couldn't turn it down. This is exactly what we were looking for. We weren't using the ground."

What Fulton didn't know was that this garden and his church were about to become the epicenter for a community-wide project to feed low-income children, provide learning spaces and join forces with other organizations with similar goals.

Savannah Radmacher '18

Delaney Lemaster displays a bouquet of flowers grown in the children's garden.

"LeForce" behind it

Berea College alumna Martina LeForce '07 knows what it's like to be a hungry kid. "I grew up poor," she said. "We didn't have food all the time. Food was a big shortcoming."

LeForce has family on Morgan Street, her mother and niece, who, like other public housing residents there, did not qualify for government food assistance, but still had trouble meeting the food budget in the summertime when kids lose access to free meals at school.

LeForce understood this was a problem facing a number of other families in Berea and began brainstorming ways to address it. Community gardening could be one way to approach it, she thought. Walking along College Square one day, she saw the logo for Grow Appalachia, the college-housed program dedicated to addressing food insecurity in Appalachia, primarily through community gardening.

Though headquartered in Berea, Grow Appalachia's mission had focused farther out where the declining coal industry had left communities in dire straits. Over the past 10 years, Grow Appalachia has worked with more than 6,000 families, who have grown more than 4 million pounds of food—enough to feed themselves and sell at the market for income.

It just so happened that Berea College President Lyle Roelofs had approached David Cooke '82, founder and director of Grow Appalachia, about reaching out more locally. LeForce's proposal to Cooke to start a summer meals program and community garden at Glades Christian Church, then, came at just the right time. Cooke agreed to provide the funding for her project and bring her on part-time to work on it.


Martina LeForce

Moriah Avery '21


Martina LeForce '07

The garden doesn't only produce food—it produces beauty and learning opportunities. Martina LeForce '07 said the children's input led to the inclusion of flowers and butterflies in the garden because the kids wanted things that "look pretty and smell good."

"Meeting with housing-authority residents and the church, we found a common need: a place for children to gather and to have free meals during the summer, and also have a place to garden. I brought the idea to David, and he gave me the support to start researching a summer food-service program at the same time I was developing the garden."

"Kids have real needs in the summer," Cooke said. "Kids deserve to have good food, they deserve to not be hungry and they deserve to be well educated. That's what this work is all about."

Grow Appalachia and Berea College partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Kentucky Department of Education to create the Berea Summer Food Service Program. Sodexo, the same company that provides dining services in the Berea College Mountaineer Dining Hall, would provide nutritious meals for Berea's kids.

In 2016, LeForce partnered with Berea Community School, the Madison County Public Library, local churches and property managers to serve 13,880 meals at 23 meal sites across town. That same year, she gathered up folks on Morgan Street and introduced them to Minister Fulton, who allowed the residents to plant 10 raised garden beds.

The program and the garden grew from there. In 2017, they planted 15 raised beds, Grow Appalachia built them a high tunnel (also called a "hoop house"), and the Berea summer meals program served nearly 18,000 meals. Grow Appalachia then expanded the program to serve as an after-school meal sponsor with the USDA At-Risk After-school meal program. By 2018, what began as a summer feeding program and community garden project had become a full-time job for LeForce, now the founder and director of the Berea Kids Eat (BKE) program at Grow Appalachia, which recently started providing "back-pack meals" on the weekends in high-poverty neighborhoods.

Raising crops and kids

For the folks on Morgan Street, the garden has grown more than food. It's grown opportunity, togetherness and a sense of self-sufficiency. Loretta and Paul Reynolds moved to the neighborhood after disability and the housing crisis displaced them from their farm. With two of seven children still at home, the Reynolds family only needed the means and opportunity to do for themselves.

"With the raised beds," Loretta said, "it's not a lot of strenuous work, and you get a lot out of it. It done us all winter. We still got some put up to start the new season next year. It helps to feed the children when you're low on income."

The kids, 16 and 12 years old, worked in the garden alongside their parents, growing beans, tomatoes and peppers, among other crops, and reaped not only a bountiful harvest, but a lesson in entrepreneurship as well. They set up a roadside stand to sell their excess and earned money to purchase school clothes and shoes for the year.

"It teaches them when they get a dollar in their hand, it can go for something helpful," Loretta said.

In all, about 14 children have regularly committed themselves to the garden, and close to 30 others stop in frequently. Only now, the garden doesn't only produce food—it produces beauty and learning opportunities.

"Even though our primary focus has been on feeding kids," LeForce said, "we don't want to be a program that is just about food, because kids need more than food. During the summer a lot of these kids drop off the radar, especially in the neighborhoods we go to, so Glades is a great convergence point."

This convergence point now includes flowers, herbs and a certified monarch butterfly waystation and pollinator garden. Last year, the kids raised 320 monarchs from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly and named each butterfly they released.

"Kids having input, having ownership, completely shifts their interest level," LeForce said. It was this ownership that led to flowers and butterflies, she said, because the kids wanted things that "look pretty and smell good."

Some of the food, flowers and herbs produced go to the Berea Faith Community Outreach Food Bank, where more than 600 families visited last year. Jerry Workman '60, volunteer director at the food bank, says this year, in addition to being a summer meal site, there will be flower and herb gardens planted outside.

"We'll have the families go out there and pick herbs and flowers when they come to the food bank," Workman said. "A lot of the people we are working with today are in rented homes, and they don't have places for gardens."

Emily LaDouceur '04

Matt Wilson '10 shows children from the community surrounding Glades Christian Church how to create steam using normal household items. These children participate in the Glades community garden project at the church.

Cerridwyn Miller spreads cream cheese on a bagel that came with her meal at the public library last summer as part of the Berea Summer Food Service Program. Grow Appalachia and Berea College partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Kentucky Department of Education to create this program in order to provide nutritious meals for Berea's kids in the summer.

A story of partnerships

The tendrils of Glades Community Garden stretch far beyond Morgan Street now. Six low-income neighborhoods are involved, and a plethora of organizations have joined together to make this little garden in a church yard a hub for community service.

Boy Scout Troop 51 teamed up with the youth of Glades Christian Church and some Berea College faculty to clean up the creek dividing Morgan Street and the church. Together, they cleared the stream of hypodermic needles, invasive plant species and 20 bags of trash. Sodexo provided snacks for the event.

Minister Fulton opened up the church community room all day, all summer long, to host a number of events born of other partnerships. The site has hosted art studios, bouquet making classes, STEAM (science, technology, art and math) workshops, and an "herbal petting zoo" that encouraged kids to rub and smell plants from the garden.

LeForce enlisted Berea College sociology professor Dr. Andrea Woodward to conduct a food-waste study so the summer meals site could provide food kids are more likely to eat.

"We found that getting kids to try food in a garden setting means they're more likely to eat those foods later," LeForce said. "The best way to do that is to grow funky types of lettuce, fun types of tomatoes, weird radishes and carrots, things that spark their visual interest and can be put on sandwiches."

The list of partnerships is quite long and has enabled BKE to pull in groups that otherwise would not work together. Berea College's Forestry Outreach Center is working through the program to develop a gardening curriculum specifically tailored to classes at Berea Community Schools so teachers can do garden projects with their students. A history teacher, for example, can plant a colonial herb garden and use it as a conduit for learning. The food produced through this curriculum could then be introduced to the school lunch program.

"What makes our model unique is we're all looking for the win-win-wins," LeForce said. "We have the same groups trying to work with the same neighborhoods. This can be duplicated. It will translate to the greater region."

The latest "win-win-win" situation LeForce is engineering is a partnership with the College's computer science department to refurbish laptops—once used by staff and students—to create a computer lab at the church community center to support summer and after-school learning.

Savannah Radmacher '18

Student intern Brigitte Fowler '18 works with a child in the Glades garden high tunnel.

That church with the garden

"The people on Morgan Street are hard workers," Minister Fulton said. "They really are. The garden has grown some really strong friendships. It's opened doors for us to be friends and neighbors."

After years of being the church across from the pizza place, the oldest church in Berea has found new life.

"The garden has become somewhat of an attraction," Fulton said. "It's amazing the number of people who come by who don't have anything to do with the garden but heard about it and wanted to see it. Even though we've been there for more than 160 years, we were basically invisible. Now we're the church with that beautiful community garden."

Some of the food, flowers and herbs produced at the Glades Christian Church community garden go to the Berea Faith Community Outreach Food Bank, where more than 600 families visited last year. Jerry Workman '60, volunteer director at the food bank, says this year, in addition to being a summer meal site, there will be flower and herb gardens planted outside.

Grow Appalachia's Tara Cash, Kayla Preston, and Chris McKenzie '07 build a high tunnel for use in the garden tended by Berea Housing Authority residents behind Glades Christian Church in Berea.

Reinventing Yourself

An alumna's journey of self-discovery and empowerment

By Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03

"I know for a fact that watching my family's struggles informed what I do now," said Angela Anderson '93. "For me, it was witnessing what it's like to be disempowered and not wanting to go through that myself and wanting to prevent that for anyone else."

Today, Anderson is a women's leadership development trainer and success coach who empowers courageous women to lead inspiring lives. But, growing up in Zephyrhills, Fla., she didn't know what it meant to be a courageous, empowered woman. Bouncing from place to place, at one point living in a run-down motel across the street from her high school, with a mother who hadn't finished eighth grade and was stuck with no real options, Anderson was determined to break away from all of those limitations.

"When I was 5 years old, I didn't know what college was, but I knew I was going to go," she recalled. "I made that decision at a young age and never gave up on it."

She pushed through high school working three jobs while maintaining an impressive GPA. In her senior year, her aunt sent her an article about Berea College, and she discovered her photography teacher had gone to Berea. Wading through difficult circumstances, Anderson caught the attention of her guidance counselor. He called John Cook, then Berea's admissions director, and because of Anderson's strong academic performance, Cook accepted her over the phone.

That moment of acceptance was such a relief, she recalled. No longer having to worry about whether she would get in, Anderson was able to focus on completing high school and becoming the first in her family to attend college. Berea became the complete restart she had been seeking.

"Berea was so welcoming to me and gave me a sense of home when I didn't have that," Anderson said.

That sense of home was created through relationships with professors and labor supervisors. Anderson worked under public relations director, Ed Ford, for three years in her labor position.

"Everyone in my family was a blue collar worker," Anderson said. "My mom was a waitress and my dad was a mechanic—I didn't know anybody who wasn't. Working in a professional setting was hugely beneficial to me, and I felt empowered by having those experiences."

In addition, faculty members like English Professor Barbara Wade influenced Anderson. While working under Wade's guidance in the Women's Studies department, Anderson remembers the beginnings of Peanut Butter and Gender, a regular luncheon lecture series focused on issues of gender and culture, and how the speakers and discussions inspired her to look at what it meant to be an educated woman.

"I had no examples of that, or what it took to be empowered and successful," Anderson said. "We were figuring out how to create a collective of women collaborating in lifting up one another.

"I didn't realize it at the time, but that was hugely impactful, and I am so thankful. Without Barbara Wade, I wouldn't have graduated," Anderson continued.

Erica Chambers

Angela Anderson '93 is a women's leadership development trainer and success coach. Despite an adverse childhood, Anderson pursued education and is now leading a successful business, affecting the lives of women all over the world from Berea, Ky.

However, it was a big leap from these conversations around female empowerment and community to her current career of emboldening women to live out their purposes. It took a couple of intermediate steps.

In 1992, Anderson met Matthew Saderholm '92. She graduated from Berea in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in English, and the two moved to Chapel Hill, N.C., where Saderholm pursued his doctoral degree and she began a career in publishing. When the company went out of business, Anderson visited a women's center in Chapel Hill and participated in vocational testing to identify new directions. Interestingly, the tests conveyed an aptitude for science, and Anderson decided to enroll in medical school.

Anderson and Saderholm married in

1996 in Danforth Chapel, and by 1999, Anderson had her first child, and the couple moved back to Berea where he accepted a faculty position in the Chemistry department. She continued pursuing medical school until the birth of their second child, and because that child was ill, Anderson chose to stay home and take care of her children.

"For a long time I beat myself up that I didn't pick a path and stay with that direction," Anderson said. "I wish someone had told me that as a woman you have to continually reinvent yourself."

In 2000, Anderson was diagnosed with a genetic disorder known as Lynch Syndrome—the same disease that took her mother's life at only 48 years old, as well as several other family members in their 30s. Growing up, no one in her family had health insurance, which meant they could not get the screenings and treatment that might have enabled them to live longer.

"When I didn't become a doctor, seeing what happened to my family inspired me to work with women in the way I do now," Anderson said. "Now, my work with women empowers them to live their potential so they can create the financial security and health they want for their families and themselves." These were women who knew they were here for a purpose, but didn't know where to start and felt undeserving of success.

She recalled all the teachers and women in her life who believed in her, saw her potential and believed she could be more than the life from which she had come. Guided by the mantra, "I'll hold the light for you until you can see it for yourself," Anderson strives to provide that encouragement for her clients.

After attending numerous conferences and benefitting from the advice and examples of hundreds of women with whom she has worked, learned and grown for nearly a decade, Anderson officially launched her business, The Art of Success for Women, about three years ago. As part of her business, she leads women through an initial 12-week session that rests on the three pillars of structure, support and spirit. Through their work with Anderson, many of these women have found their purpose while doubling or tripling their incomes.

Angela Anderson helps women explore their desired outcomes for their lives and learn the steps needed to obtain those goals. During her workshops, women share their lives and affirm each other's positive characteristics.

"It's a process to find out what they really want in their hearts," Anderson explained. "I know if they show up, commit to themselves and do the work, amazing things happen."

And Anderson has seen amazing things happen in the lives of these women. She helped one woman in her 60s who had lost her daughter to a heroin overdose and was about to file bankruptcy due to her faltering business. She had no belief in herself. After working with Anderson, she didn't file bankruptcy. Instead, she went into a career that fed her soul and, over time, rebuilt her business, Anderson recalled.

"Her life was completely changed," she added. "She regained a sense of herself. That's the absolute best part of my work—witnessing other women step into their own power."

It was disheartening for Anderson to watch her mother's experience, so today, at 49 years of age, she feels fortunate to be doing this work.

"It's less about where I am in my business and more about what difference I can make for other people," Anderson said. "I want to work with more women. I want to see more women living their own expressions of who they are and being financially independent."

As part of her business, The Art of Success for Women, Angela Anderson leads women through an initial 12-week session that rests on the three pillars of structure, support and spirit. These workshops lay the foundation for women to believe in themselves and learn to empower one another.

You can find out more at **www.TheArtOfSuccessForWomen.com**.

Keeping Berea in

Maintaining Berea's beautiful campus takes teamwork, planning and creativity

By Kim Kobersmith

It is spring, and the Berea College campus is in bloom. The early spring crocuses and the rainbow of tulips will be followed by the butterfly-loving summer milkweed and the autumnal pansies and mums. To find who literally keeps Berea in bloom, look no further than the College Grounds crew, a team of staff and students who maintain the campus all year round.

Monah Avery, '21

Rose Adams has worked for the Grounds crew since 2004. She is responsible for the landscaping around some of Berea's most notable locations, including Boone Tavern and the President's House.

Staff member Rose Adams has a special touch for nurturing flowers. College Square, Boone Tavern, the President's House and the three campus entry signs are all brought to life with her horticulture skills.

Regarding her flower selections, "Rose is amazing," said Eric Harshman, Grounds coordinator. She plans landscape beds taking into account bloom time, plant height and a varietal color palette.

Some of Adams' blooms are not primarily for people's enjoyment, but for some temporary Kentucky residents. Three certified monarch waystations are located near the President's House, Howard Tower and the Child Development Lab. Inspired by First Lady Laurie Roelofs, the gardens provide both nursery plants (milkweed) and nectar plants for winged guests. For more on Laurie Roelefs's butterfly way stations, see page 20.

The Grounds crew has a wide area of responsibility beyond landscape and flower beds. There are acres of grass and trees and athletic fields for a succession of sports. Tasks include campus-wide recycling, and leaf and snow removal. They must keep their equipment running in tip-top condition and erect tents on campus for special events. It is an ever-changing list of to-dos dictated by season and weather, and it requires coordination with numerous departments like athletics, facilities and administration.

> That is when I remember this job is not about me and my accomplishments. It is about them taking pride in something done well. They create some of the most beautiful beds of all.
> – Rose Adams

The best way to think of the work of the Grounds crew is that it is hospitality, making the campus a truly welcoming place for students, staff and visitors. During snowfalls, they arrive as early as 4 a.m. to prep for the day to ensure students can navigate to classes and the dining hall and that parking lots are safe for later-arriving employees. In wind storms, staff are on call to remove downed branches and trees. Spring is a busy season, with numerous events requiring tents and special efforts to spruce up the campus for graduation. Caring for the campus takes dedication and hard work, exemplified every day by the unsung members of the Grounds crew.

"It is a lot of physical work in all weather conditions," said Johnathan Wilson '19, student director of Grounds.

The 20 Grounds crew labor students are assigned to a staff member and work alongside them with all the Grounds

Bloom

Jett Yates, '16

tasks, whether planting, weeding, mulching, shoveling snow or grinding stumps. For some, it is a welcome change from their academic work.

"The students come from a variety of majors," Harshman said. "Grounds work is hands-on and a helpful 'brain break' from classes. The work they do here, like planting trees, is tangible and lasting."

As seasoned members of the Grounds crew, students have the opportunity to create and fulfill some of their own landscape plans. While a gifted plant artist herself, Adams gets a thrill from working with them to create their own garden beds.

"I just love the students; I teach them, and they teach me," Adams said. "Working with them is a real give-and-take."

She lets them take charge of their design without criticism, and she makes a point to celebrate with them the small, beautiful surprises blooming throughout the season.

"That is when I remember this job is not about me and my accomplishments," Adams said. "It is about them taking pride in something done well. They create some of the most beautiful beds of all."

> My labor position on the Grounds crew is an escape from academic work while still being academic. It furthers Berea's investment in my education.
> – Jonathan Wilson '19

Her affection for the students is reciprocated—alumni send her Christmas cards and seek her out when they return to campus.

Wilson has experienced that kind of support on his Grounds projects. He heralds the staff for encouraging him to pursue his passions and interests and assisting him in accessing resources when necessary. A self-proclaimed sustainability nerd, he infuses native plant life into his landscape renovations, with an understanding that gardens are part of a larger ecosystem. Partly inspired by campus rain gardens and native plants behind Draper, his diverse plantings welcome a variety of native pollinators.

A senior, Wilson has worked with Grounds for four years and has learned a lot on the job.

Grounds projects/training coordinator Jake Harding (right) guides student Jacob Cornwell '22 in placing new plants in the landscaping around campus in preparation for spring.

Moriah Avery '21

GROUNDS CREW STAFF LITTLE KNOWN FACTS:

Carl Carpenter is 93 years old and has helped maintain the campus for more than 60 years. The longest-serving Berea College staff member, he still periodically takes a turn on a mower.

Eric Harshman has a degree in golf turf management. Before joining the College staff, he maintained fields for professional baseball teams like the Cincinnati Reds.

Rose Adams moved to Kentucky to work with horses. She broke yearlings at Claiborne Farms for 10 years before changing careers to become a landscaper and arborist.

"My labor position on the Grounds crew is an escape from academic work while still being academic," he explained. "It furthers Berea's investment in my education."

In his case, it has been an investment in his career preparation as well; Wilson hopes to pursue work in sustainable landscaping when he graduates this spring.

The Grounds crew nurtures a lot of budding activity. Their main job is caring for the physical environment around campus, but they intentionally do it in a way that nurtures and encourages the students who are part of the crew to bloom.

Noah Eubanks '22 (left) and Daniel Versluys '22 are students on the Berea Grounds crew. In late March, they assisted in changing out the landscaping around the Margaret A. Cargill Natural Sciences and Health building in preparation for a special event in early April.

Grounds Crew by the Numbers

- 7 full-time staff
- 20 labor students
- 125 acres of grass
- 7 miles of sidewalks to plow
- 3,000 + spring bulbs planted each year

A Cracking Experiment *to Green the Ungreenable*

By Jason Lee Miller

On the right day, in a fenced-off corner of the student parking lot, one may find a curious scene: an art student applying Coca-Cola to pavement with a paint roller. Behind her, radishes grow from holes drilled into the asphalt, and nearby, two Berea College professors patiently monitor the progress of an art installation/science experiment that in two years will answer some important questions about paved surfaces.

Daniel Feinberg, assistant professor of design and sculpture, keeps at the ready an astonishing list of facts about asphalt. He'll tell you that the amount of impervious surface in the United States is about the same size of Ohio, that the number of parking spaces alone are the size of West Virginia, that Des Moines, Iowa, provides 20 parking spaces per household, and that 97-percent-impervious Jakarta, Indonesia, is actually sinking. He'll also tell you about the unique challenges presented by so much pavement, including increased heat in cities, the ugly aesthetics of abandoned or unused pavement and the consequences of impaired water drainage.

In Houston, for example, the flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey in 2017 was exacerbated by the amount of impervious surface covering the area. Because pavement prevents water being absorbed into the soil, the rain that fell during the hurricane instead ran off into the rivers and bayous, which, of course, overflowed.

And the problem is not limited to urban areas. The historic downtown area of Paint Lick, a town near Berea where a state highway brought decades of asphalt layers, rests within a floodplain, and runoff from a nearby creek periodically inundates the area. In other rural areas around the nation, at closed factories, malls, stadiums and Walmarts, unused and unsightly pavement slowly degrades, heating up the rainwater so that its run-off raises the water temperatures in local streams.

Feinberg notes that the national asphalt issue does not seem to be at the front of most people's minds. While there is increasing concern about pavement, especially in cities, laying down of even more pavement is not something often questioned or seen as exacerbating an already pervasive problem.

"When a new subdivision goes in and more asphalt is laid down," Feinberg said, "people tend to see it passively as something that has to happen to allow access, revitalization or progress."

Feinberg sought a solution that would allow water to drain through impervious surfaces in an aesthetically intentional way that would result in cooling and greening of the

Marissa Angel '22

Students prepare buckets of Coca-Cola that when applied to asphalt hopefully will fracture the pavement in a deliberate and nonindustrial way.


Marissa Angel '22

A student uses a soda-soaked roller to test the idea of using Coca-Cola to fracture pavement. Assistant Professor of Design and Sculpture Dan Feinberg teamed up with Dr. Mary Parr, chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources department, to determine if Coke and radishes could break up pavement and allow for water drainage.

asphalt without the expense and environmental effects of industrial equipment. This led to a couple of questions perhaps only a sculptor and designer might think of: Could you apply something to the pavement to make it fracture in a desired pattern so that it looks orderly rather than disorderly? Could you plant something in the cracks hardy enough to break up the pavement further and allow water drainage?

He approached Dr. Mary Parr, assistant professor and chair of the agriculture and natural resources department and a scientist specializing in cover crops, to find out what kind of plant would be suitable.

Dr. Parr notes that almost no research has been conducted on how to intentionally disrupt paved surfaces and unseal the soils beneath without industrial equipment.

"When you look at other people's work on plants and asphalt, what you find is how to prevent plants from growing in asphalt," Parr said. "When Dan started talking about this project, I was curious to see how strong the tillage radish is and if it could do what he's looking for."

The tillage radish, a kind of Daikon, is a cover crop used to break up compacted soil, which is also problematically impervious, that could make an excellent "plant-based agitator of asphalt." Its roots spread wide and grow deep, and might just be the kind of plant that could break up pavement enough for water to drain through.

Throughout this study, Parr has collected soil samples to assess how well the treatments of the asphalt succeed in restoring soil functions, like the ability of the soil beneath to support life and act as a habitat for soil organisms.

"Asphalt and other pavement options completely disrupt soil functions," Parr said. "Through this project, I will be looking at how possible it is to restore some soil function by breaking up the surface and reintroducing roots to the soil beneath the pavement."

Breaking up the surface, though, is a significant issue. The art-science duo needed to come up with a way of fracturing the pavement in a deliberate and nonindustrial way.

"At first we looked at salt," Feinberg said. "Salt causes asphalt to crack, but salt also increases the salinity of waterways. And it's harder to control. Once you spread it, it can go all over the place."

Feinberg and Parr consulted a materials scientist, who recommended a cheap and readily available material more caustic than acid rain: Coca-Cola. The two professors then set out to discover if soda, combined with the radishes, really could produce desired results.

It took some explaining, but Feinberg and Parr presented the project to the College's Administrative Council, which suggested an underutilized area of student parking where they could test their ideas.

"We anticipate the fracturing to take a couple of seasons to happen," Feinberg said. "We're hoping that after two years of multiple growth cycles of the tillage radishes and two years of Coca-Cola treatment, we'll have a pretty good idea of how effective it will be."

Feinberg recognizes the slow pace of the project and that people interested in seeing the results may grow impatient. For that, Feinberg and his art students are developing web interfaces that could allow people to impose the finished product onto a project site and sort of see the future.

Chloe Soliday '22, a peace and social justice major from Saxton, Pa., works in Feinberg's graphics lab as a lab assistant. She helped prepare the site for testing, painting the grid pattern and plotting out where the holes were going to be drilled for the radishes. But inside the lab, she worked on animations to go along with the project to help people visualize the end results.

"We've used all kinds of different technologies to design things related to this project," Soliday said. Among the technologies is an augmented-reality software that allows users to scan a picture and see a computerized rendering of what a site could look like.


Dan Feinberg

While it will take some time to know if Coca-Cola is caustic enough to fracture the pavement, the radishes have already proved their worth, taking root deep below where they were planted.

The aesthetics, as happens with art, are already provoking thought among the students involved.

"It's a cool juxtaposition," said Marissa Angel '22, a biology major working as a teaching assistant for Feinberg's sculpture classes, who also has assisted with the project. "It's quite impactful, from an art perspective, seeing the weird contrast between the living radishes and the black, dead asphalt."

Parr envisions a future where people put what they discover to work. "The most amazing thing would be that I'm driving somewhere, and I see an abandoned mall where somebody has used our method to do something interesting and green spaces that seem ungreenable."

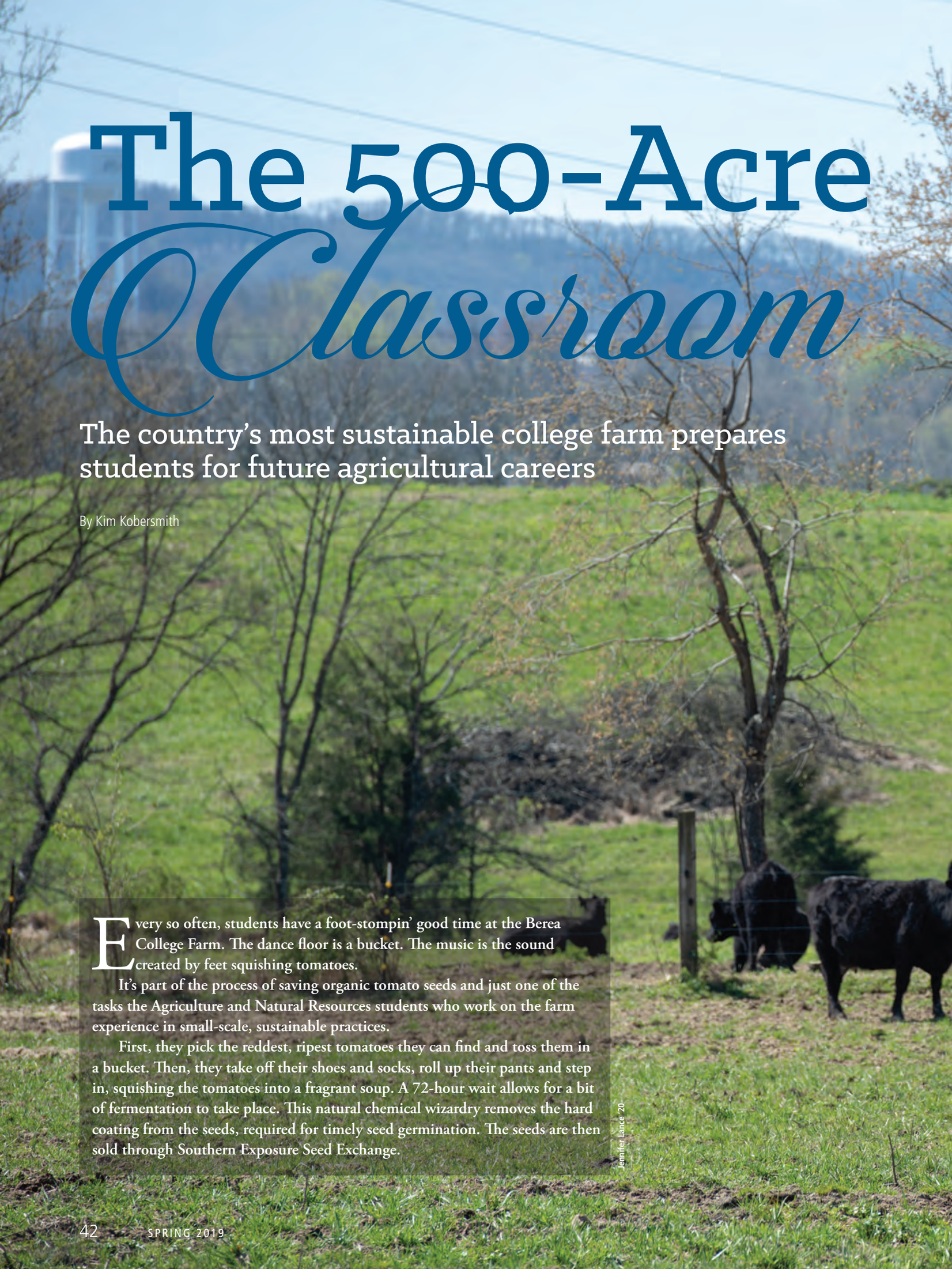
Feinberg and Parr hope to present their project at the Ecology Society's annual meeting in August. If in two years, the results are not quite what they expected, Feinberg will continue brainstorming solutions in downtown Paint Lick, where he lives. While it will take a long time to know if Coca-Cola is caustic enough to fracture the pavement, the radishes have already proved their worth, taking root deep below where they were planted, perhaps beginning the slow process of restoring soil functions.

"I've really liked watching the radishes grow and anticipating this whole experiment working out," Soliday said. "If this works, that's a big accomplishment." B

The 500-Acre Classroom

The country's most sustainable college farm prepares students for future agricultural careers

By Kim Kobersmith



Every so often, students have a foot-stompin' good time at the Berea College Farm. The dance floor is a bucket. The music is the sound created by feet squishing tomatoes.

It's part of the process of saving organic tomato seeds and just one of the tasks the Agriculture and Natural Resources students who work on the farm experience in small-scale, sustainable practices.

First, they pick the reddest, ripest tomatoes they can find and toss them in a bucket. Then, they take off their shoes and socks, roll up their pants and step in, squishing the tomatoes into a fragrant soup. A 72-hour wait allows for a bit of fermentation to take place. This natural chemical wizardry removes the hard coating from the seeds, required for timely seed germination. The seeds are then sold through Southern Exposure Seed Exchange.

Jennifer Lance '20

That is the kind of knowledge it's hard to learn in the classroom and is just one example of the lessons that garnered the College Farm a No. 1 ranking as the most sustainable college farm in America last October. College Values Online ranked schools by a mix of factors, including environmental methods, student involvement, connection with instruction and enterprise diversity.

For almost 150 years, students at Berea have been learning and working on one of the oldest continuously-operating student educational farms in the United States. The farm is not a single entity, but a dynamic number of enterprises spread over 500 acres. Currently, projects include vegetables, cattle, seeds, wheat, hogs, mushrooms, honey bees, corn, chickens, eggs, fruit and oats.

The farm's emphasis on sustainable practices stems directly from the College's Great Commitments, with values like equality, mindful living and concern for the welfare of others. The farm has incorporated some basic environmentally sustainable practices for almost 20 years. All fruits and vegetables are USDA Certified Organic. Waste from the college dining hall is transformed into compost for the gardens and greenhouse, providing 100 percent of the potting medium. Heat for the main greenhouse is partially provided by a wood furnace.

About a decade ago, a visioning process focused the complex work of the farm on two simple goals. The first is: **The farm enterprises are models of sustainable agricultural production in the region.** Sustainability was further defined as not just environmental, but also economic, social and humane. In the Kentucky region, small farms with limited resources are the norm. Projects implemented at the Berea College Farm balance these elements of scale, economic viability and ecological care.

After embracing this goal, a visionary group of students, staff and faculty developed a plan to transition the farm into a small, diversified, more profitable model with a decreased ecological footprint. Expanding organic crop production allows them to charge a premium price for grain and be better stewards of the land. Pasturing hogs and grass-finishing cattle is more humane and reduces the expense of grain feed. A shift from commodity production to local direct sales increases economic viability as well as reducing "food miles." Now complete, the transformed operation has fulfilled expectations.


Jalen Prater '21

Anahi Favela '20 works with poultry on the College Farm. During the first semester of the 2018-19 year, dining services purchased 4,300 pounds of poultry from the farm.

Farm as Learning Laboratory

The Berea College Farm as part of an educational institution establishes the second goal identified in the visioning process: **The farm is a laboratory to provide students with practical learning experiences.** This is especially valuable in the modern context, when many agriculture and natural resources majors at Berea have no farming experience before college.

Working a farm labor position is a crucial element of hands-on education for most agriculture and natural resources majors today. They gain experience in all of the enterprises and are involved in all stages of the business, from growing, harvesting and processing to setting budgets, developing value-added products and marketing. Students begin with simple tasks like feeding livestock and watering gardens and by senior year are handling more complex business and management challenges.

"Everyone works—there is no hierarchy," said junior Kenny Holbrook, who is a student farm manager.

Senior Katlyn Yates was a farming greenhorn when she arrived at college. She affectionately calls her freshman labor experience "the Year of the Fence"—driving fence posts was one of


Jalen Prater '21

Katlyn Yates '19 (left) and Sydney Depp '19 attract attention as they carry slop for the farm's pigs.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Grayson Wetherby '22, Sydney Depp '19, Anahi Favela '20 and Katlyn Yates '19 assist with moving cattle around the Berea College farm.

Grayson Wetherby '22 collects eggs on the farm and brings them in to be washed and distributed at the Farm Store.

> It is extremely gratifying to realize that less than four years ago, I had no idea what I was doing on a farm, and now I am the one people come to for advice. My time on the farm has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.
> – Katlyn Yates

the skills she mastered. She really cut her agricultural teeth on the farm during her third year. She was hired as the manager of the poultry team, even though she knew nothing about birds. The farm plan for that year also included a tripling of the flock size from the previous year.

"It was a crash course in poultry management," Yates said. "It was also the year I think I learned the most, simply because I forced myself to."

While a challenge, that experience undergirded a growing sense of competence and confidence for her role this year as student farm manager.

"It is extremely gratifying to realize that less than four years ago, I had no idea what I was doing on a farm, and now I am the one people come to for advice," she said. "My time on the farm has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."

Eggs collected on the farm are hand washed. According to farm director Sean Clark, the Berea College Farm Store sells roughly 10,000 pounds of meat, eggs, produce and grains annually—all directly from the College farm.

In the academic arena, almost all of the agriculture classes have a farm element. Dr. Sean Clark's horticulture class this spring is studying Jean-Martin Fortier's book, "The Market Gardener," an instruction manual for creating a profitable small-scale intensive organic vegetable farm. Much of the class takes place at the gardens and greenhouse. Students attempt to replicate Fortier's methods and analyze whether his techniques are viable here. In essence, they are micro-farming: building high tunnels, planning a crop system, planting seeds, measuring yields, problem solving for pests and marketing their products. Besides the obvious experiential benefits, Clark points out the benefit of introducing micro-scale techniques, as many students express an interest in urban farming after graduation.

Farm as Inspiration

While not an express goal, the immersive learning on the farm inspires dreams and ignites passions. Partly because of her experience talking with customers at the farm's spring plant sales, student Horticulture Manager Taylor Robarts wants to educate youth as a 4-H extension agent. Yates' passion became the farm cattle, and as a result, she changed her career focus to large-animal veterinary medicine.

Sometimes, the physical labor and sheer work of the Berea College Farm offers its own lessons—learned not in the classroom, but together in the field. When a student manager shares her favorite time at the farm, the big sweet potato harvest each November, the other two in the conversation quickly nod in agreement. Yes, it is a

Senior Katlyn Yates has worked on the farm for four years. During that time, her work with the farm cattle inspired her to change her career focus to large-animal veterinary medicine.

FARM TO FORK

In 1871, Berea College President Henry Fairchild established a garden of 1.5 acres with a few dairy cows to provide sustenance for students at the dining hall. Rooted in this practicality, the two major markets now for the College Farm are the Mountaineer Dining Hall and the College Farm Store.

The dining hall is so close to the Gardens and Greenhouse, students often walk to deliver the produce for the salad bar. According to Cait McClanahan, Dining Service sustainability coordinator, more than 75 percent of the hamburgers served come from the farm, and between August 2018 and February 2019, the dining hall purchased 4,300 pounds of poultry.

"We buy from the College Farm because we believe in supporting our own labor program where students are learning how to produce food for markets," McClanahan said.

The Farm Store opened in 2013 in the renovated historic Broomcraft building and, according to Farm Director Dr. Sean Clark, sells roughly 10,000 pounds of meat, eggs, produce and grains annually. Along with raw farm products, the store sells an array of prepared foods, including fresh baked bread, handcrafted sausages and a daily soup. Approximately 25 percent of Farm Store revenue comes from prepared foods, including weekday lunches and Saturday breakfasts.

Jessie Adams '18 gets up close with chickens on the farm during a non-traditional student and families tour in spring 2018. The farm conducts tours for multiple groups each year.

big harvest and yes, it is a lot of work. But like big harvests of old, it draws people together and strengthens the farm community.

"We often have real meaning-of-life conversations in the field," Robarts reflected.

"It is a nice space for conversation and teamwork," farm student Eunice Jijon Jarquin added.

Conversation, teamwork and feet squishing tomatoes are all part of what make the Berea College Farm a successful enterprise that honors the seventh Great Commitment while supporting academics and sustainability. That's sweet music.

Junior Kenny Holbrook serves as a student farm manager. The farm serves as a laboratory to provide students, like Holbrook, with practical learning experiences that can be used outside of agricultural careers.

Planting by the Signs

Preserving an Appalachian tradition

By Jason Lee Miller

Have a conversation with Bill Best ’59, former director of the Sustainable Mountain Agriculture Center, Berea College faculty member and author of two books about heirloom seed saving in Appalachia, and it is likely you’re going to be talking about beans. You’ll learn that there are more bean varieties in Appalachia than anywhere else on earth and that there are 64 bean varieties in Breathitt County, Ky., alone. He’ll tell you there are regional beans, community beans and even family beans, usually named after women.

Bill Best knows a lot about beans. He should. He’s been growing them for 81 years, ever since toddlerhood in North Carolina. When he moved to Kentucky in 1973, he brought his gardening expertise with him and the methods he had learned as a boy. One day, a woman up the road, Lucy Alexander, asked if she could borrow his green house to dry her shuck beans, or “leather britches” as they are known elsewhere, and Best obliged her. When Best observed Lucy’s crop, he commented that her beans always seemed to do better than his.

Appalachian tradition includes planting crops by astrological signs using the “Man of the Signs” ancient sketch as a guide, pictured above with permission from “The Old Farmer’s Almanac.”

Julie Maruskin of Winchester, Ky., compares dates between two different calendars. She creates a calendar each year that is sold at the Clark County Library with instructions on planting by the signs.

Meg Wilson

“Well,” she said, “I’ve noticed you almost always plant in the wrong sign.”

What Lucy was referring to is the old Appalachian tradition of planting crops according to astrological signs appearing within the moon cycle. For beans, you want to plant when the moon is in Gemini. Only that’s not what the Appalachian “old timers” will say. They’ll say you plant beans “in the arms.” This refers to the “Man of the Signs,” an ancient sketch that assigns body parts to represent the astrological signs favorable or unfavorable to planting, or a number of other activities.

Lucy marked a calendar for Bill, noting the best times to plant, and the next year, lo and behold, his beans did better.

“It’s been my observation that beans come out better when planting by the signs,” Best said. “I think there has to be something to it because if the moon can affect the tides, then it can probably affect the growth of plants. A lot of people in the mountains did everything by the signs, cutting brush, even castrating animals.”

Bill’s story is just one of dozens of oral histories being collected for a project called “Beans in the Arms: Planting by the Signs in Kentucky.” Dr. Sarah Hall, plant ecologist and associate professor in the Agriculture and Natural

Resources department, began collecting these histories through recorded interviews with people throughout central and eastern Kentucky last fall. The work is made possible by a grant from the Kentucky Oral History Commission.

"I am a trained scientist, so this work is certainly out of my realm of expertise," Hall said, acknowledging that her background made it difficult for her to accept the practice. "But the part of me that loves this region is fascinated by it, and when something has been done and followed for so long by so many, I think there could be something to it."

Hall first encountered the practice in 2010, when working at a research farm at Kentucky State University. A man named John Clay handed her a bag of mush melon seeds and advised her that if she planted them under a certain sign, they would grow an inch deeper into the soil. The Madison County native tucked the seeds and the advice away and did not think much about it again until teaching a course called "Appalachian Plants and People," focusing on plant traditions related to medicine, food and craft—many of which are being lost over time.

Planting by the signs appears to be one of those traditions that is not being carried on by the younger generations, reason enough for Hall to spend her sabbatical researching and archiving information about it.

"The older folks have told us that their grandchildren don't follow the signs anymore," said photographer Meg Wilson, whom Hall brought on to the project to photograph the people interviewed. "This older generation of grandparents and great grandparents have practiced planting by the signs for 60, 70, 80 years. And they say that the younger generation is too busy to follow it."

"We've talked to quite a few people who said, 'I wish you could talk to my uncle about it, but he passed away two years ago,' Hall said. "There's a feeling of urgency to capture it because people are getting older."

Best concurs that the tradition doesn't seem to be catching on with the younger folks. "I think we skipped a couple generations where the lore wasn't past on," he said. "A lot of the younger people are moving back into gardening now for nutritional purposes and to get exercise, but not a lot them are returning to the signs."

There is a dearth of research into the practice, and almost no testing scientifically—even though the tradition is quite old; it is even mentioned in ancient Mayan texts. Hall relates that one German researcher conducted testing with positive results and developed a new kind of "biodynamic" calendar with different symbology. But other than what's contained in the Farmer's Almanac, the Foxfire book series, which details southern Appalachian traditions, and a few distributed calendars, there is very little information about planting by the signs outside of oral and family traditions, most often passed down by women.

If desired, a person could live their entire life by the signs in this tradition. There are good fishing days, days for curing hogs, good and bad travel days. There's even guidance for having surgery or getting dental work. It's best to schedule medical procedures when the sign is away from that particular body part. For dental work, pick a sign below the knees. And whatever you do, never

Meg Wilson

Meg Wilson

ABOVE: Dr. Sarah Hall (right) interviews Phil Case of Frankfort for the Planting by the Signs project. Case writes a weekly column in the "State Journal" as well as a Facebook page on planting by the signs.

LEFT: Susana Lein explains her practice of permaculture on her farm, Salamander Springs, outside of Berea. She uses the biodynamic calendar, which is based on the moon phases and astrological signs.

Listen to some of Dr. Sarah Hall's interviews at **https://magazine.berea.edu**

plant or make sauerkraut "in the bowels" or it will turn bad.

One person featured in the collection, planned for publication by University Press of Kentucky, is Berea alumna Jane Post '81, a homesteader who grows vegetables and mushrooms on 200 acres outside of Berea and hosts retreats there. For just about everything, Post follows "Llewellyn's Moon Sign Book," in publication since 1905.

"I highly recommend it," Post said. "You can basically run your whole life by it. It even tells you when to wean your children. When we advertise by email, I pick a sign that's good for communication."

When she schedules retreats, Post ensures safe travel of guests by choosing days outside of a Mars aspect, when accidents are more likely to happen. The moon sign book can be followed in difficult weather as well, Post says.

"During a drought, it really matters," she said. When I plant by the fruitful signs, a water sign like Cancer, I will get rain. It's not very scientific, but it's as close to science as I come."

Though a scientist, Hall says testing the practice to see if it holds up isn't really the point of the project. The point is the stories, the history and the preservation of tradition, though in the future she may test out a few rows.

Jess Clarkson Jr. (right) shows pictures of his family to Dr. Sarah Hall. His late wife, Gladys, learned from her parents and would always tell Mr. Clarkson when to plant based on the "Farmer's Almanac."

Wilson agrees that preserving the history is what matters most. "It's important that the people we talk to are able to tell their own stories and share their memories of their connection with the land and preserve that for future reference," she said. "We often feel history is so far removed from us, but it's not that far removed. It exists within living memory."

Hall and Wilson will wrap up the interviews for the project this year, with audio of the full interviews made available on the Hutchins Library's Special Collections & Archives website, and a book to follow.

Dr. Sarah Hall (left), associate professor of agriculture and natural resources, poses with photographer Meg Wilson.

Bill Best heard about planting by the signs from his neighbor, the late Lucy Alexander. She would mark his calendar for when to plant his beans.

BEREA CONNECT

Minashsha Lamisa '18 serves as an alumni mentor at Great Conversations during Homecoming 2018.

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Guy Adams '81 serves as an alumni mentor at Great Conversations during Homecoming 2018.

For more information, contact volunteer coordinator, Lisa Colletti-Jones at (859) 985-3183 or collettijonesl@berea.edu

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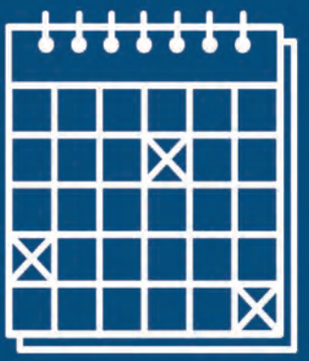

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Berea Recognized in Kentucky House of Representatives

In its February sessions, the Kentucky House of Representatives takes time during Black History Month to recognize groups or individuals who have made a positive impact on the African American community. R. Travis Brenda '96, the Kentucky representative for District 71 and a Berea College alumnus, recognized Berea from the House floor for the College's many historic efforts for racial equality.

A delegation from Berea College, including Alicestyne Turley, director, Carter G. Woodson Center and assistant professor; Kim Brown, associate vice president, Marketing and Communications; Virgil Burnside, vice president for Student Life; Jackie Collier, associate vice president, Alumni Relations; and Tim Jordan, media relations manager, attended the Frankfort session and viewed Rep. Brenda's presentation from the gallery. Following the session, Rep. Brenda assembled the Berea delegation along with other representatives and legislative staff who are Berea alumni or have Berea connections (such as Daniel Thomas, the House doorkeeper, who attended Lincoln Institute) to take a photo at the Speaker's desk at the front of the House chamber.

For a full transcript of Brenda's comments and a video of his presentation, visit **https://bit.ly/2YbntBR** or scan this QR code.

Berea College Named as a Gilman Top Producing Institution

The U.S. Department of State recognized Berea College as one of the U.S. higher education institutions that sent the most students overseas through the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program in academic year 2017-18. Berea was noted for its success in making international study and internships more accessible and inclusive for American students of all backgrounds through the Gilman program.

The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with the Institute of International Education, compiles the list, organized by small, medium and large four-year institutions, and associate's colleges.

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, with the support of the U.S. Congress, is reshaping study abroad to make it more accessible and inclusive for American students. The Gilman Program broadens the U.S. student population studying and interning abroad by providing scholarships to outstanding undergraduates who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise participate. Since the program's establishment in 2001, more than 28,000 Gilman scholars have studied in nearly 150 countries.

Berea College Recognized by *U.S. News and World Report*

A recent article published by *U. S. News & World Report* included Berea among selective colleges where students are eager to apply, be accepted and attend. The article named highly competitive, "high yield" colleges, which refers to the percentage of accepted students who choose to enroll. The article specifically cited Berea College and the United States Naval Academy for high yields and no tuition, stating, "Two liberal arts colleges with high yield figures—the Naval Academy and Berea College in Kentucky—provide a tuition-free education, easing the financial burden on students and their families as the cost of school continues to rise across the nation."

Berea College Professor Awarded Whiting Foundation Grant

The Whiting Foundation awarded a $50,000 grant to Jason E. Cohen, associate professor of English at Berea College. Cohen is one of seven humanities scholars named as a Fellow and grant recipient in the Whiting Public Engagement Program, which empowers early-career scholars and their collaborators to amplify unheard stories and circulate insights gleaned from immersion in the humanities. Cohen's project, titled Histories of Overburden, is a partnership with the Pine Mountain Settlement School and public schools in Harlan County, Ky. The project will bring high school students into Pine Mountain's vast archive of environmental and cultural history to study firsthand how the past—especially resource extraction and industrialization—has affected the local environmental and cultural heritage.

Berea College Implements Tobacco-free Policy

The Berea College General Faculty Assembly voted in favor of a new policy prohibiting use of tobacco and electronic smoking devices on campus. The new policy, scheduled to take effect in July 2019, designates all College property free of tobacco smoking and vaping products.

More than a year ago, the College's Administrative Committee appointed a group comprised of tobacco users and non-users to draft a policy for making Berea's campus free from tobacco and related products. Once the policy was developed, students, staff and faculty reviewed and adopted it. In recent years, tobacco products were only permitted in designated smoking areas at the gazebos around Berea's campus and select other locations. With the coming change to a tobacco-free campus, the College's health and wellness program is offering cessation programs using the Cooper Clayton method to assist smokers in kicking their habit.

The gazebos will remain temporarily as locations for (healthier) socializing while the College develops other places where students can casually congregate—picnic tables, benches, swing sets—to socialize and blow off steam instead of smoke.

bell hooks Honored in *New York Times* Column

bell hooks, Distinguished Professor in Residence in Appalachian Studies, was recently highlighted in a *New York Times* column by award-winning novelist and former student, Min Jin Lee. In the article, Lee looks back on her time as a student at Yale University in hooks' "Introduction to African-American Literature" class. The writer reflects on how hooks' writing helped shape the perception Lee initially had of her place in the feminist movement as a Korean woman.

While hooks didn't assign her own literature, Lee explains that she and her friends sought out their assistant professor's first book, "Ain't I A Woman: Black Women and Feminism," anyway. Initially, Lee expected she wouldn't have a place in other prominent activists' vision of feminist liberation. hooks' work changed all of that. "For me, reading 'Ain't I A Woman,' was as if someone had opened the door, the windows, and raised the roof in my mind," Lee said.

You can read Lee's full article, "In Praise of bell hooks," at **https://nyti.ms/2EGFRKY**.

First Berea students join the Black Studies' Ankh Maat Honor Society

Recently, (pictured below from left to right) Angelica Gantt, Lyric A. Jones, Shanita Jackson, Liam Taylor, Lyric Jones and (kneeling) Erin T. Berry, along with R'mon Harvell (not pictured) became the first Bereans to be inducted into the National Council of Black Studies' Ankh Maat Honor Society on March 9, 2019 in New Orleans. Professor Andrew Baskin (far right) attended the induction ceremony. The society promotes scholarly study, research and other scholarly activities in the field of Africana Studies. Being part of the society is a high honor that requires hard work; to be eligible for consideration, students must be a major or minor in African and African American Studies, as well as have the highest grade point averages for both their African and African American and their general coursework.

Appalachian Narrative Award Winners Announced

Berea College's Loyal Jones Appalachian Center announced the winners of the "Appalachian Narratives for Our Time" award for essays about how Appalachians thrive in the places they call home. The submitted essays focus on the authors' compelling life stories and illustrate the challenges of coming of age, working and living in the realities of family and community.

Three top prizes were selected by national best-selling author Silas House, who judged the finalists. **First place:** "An Exultation of Appalachia" by Lonormi Manuel **Second place:** "From Moonshiner to Lawyer" by Richard Hopkins **Third place:** "An Appalachian Upbringing" by Jamie Ward '08. **The following essays were finalists:** "My Rag Rug Life: An Appalachian Panegyric" by Lisa O. Carey; "Growing Up and Staying in the Mountains" by Carol A. Ison; "Growing Up Appalachian—A Place to Call Home" by Marta Pate; "Endemic Species" by Anna Sunshine Ison.

For more information on the winners and excerpts from their essays, visit **www.berea.edu/news**.

Berea Named a "Best Value" College by the Princeton Review

Berea College, widely known for its no-tuition policy, 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®.

The newly-published 2019 edition of The Princeton Review's annual guide, *The Best Value Colleges: 200 Schools with Exceptional ROI for Your Tuition Investment* recommends colleges considered the nation's best for academics, affordability and career prospects. The distinction is based on a ROI (return on investment) rating score developed by The Princeton Review that weights more than 40 data points, including data from previous years' surveys of students and administrators at more than 650 U.S. colleges.

As the cost of higher education continues to rise at most schools, Berea College's no-tuition model continues to attract national attention, such as in recent features in the *Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic* and on CBS This Morning: Saturday.

Diverse Magazine Features the Father of Black History

Preeminent scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson has been dubbed "the father of Black history" and is known for earning degrees at the University of Chicago and Harvard, but less well known is how living in Appalachia and attending Berea College informed his towering intellect and tireless work ethic. *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine writer LaMont Jones Jr. visited Berea's campus to learn more about this alumnus who changed the way America views Black history. Alicestyne Turley, Berea's director of the Carter G. Woodson Center, told the story of how Woodson's Appalachian roots and time at Berea impacted his life and how Berea College is keeping Woodson's legacy alive today.

Read the article at **https://bit.ly/2YJ8v6i**

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