

# BEREA COLLEGE

WINTER 2020 Volume 90 Number 3

R A D I C A L L Y

*different*

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REV. JNO. FAIRBANKS, JR.

THE officers of William... interest in their... from his son was... had not much mo... been learned, Be... thus remembered... Rev. E. H. FAIRBANKS, JR.

MY DEAR SIR: I enclose a check on New York for Berea College for my father.

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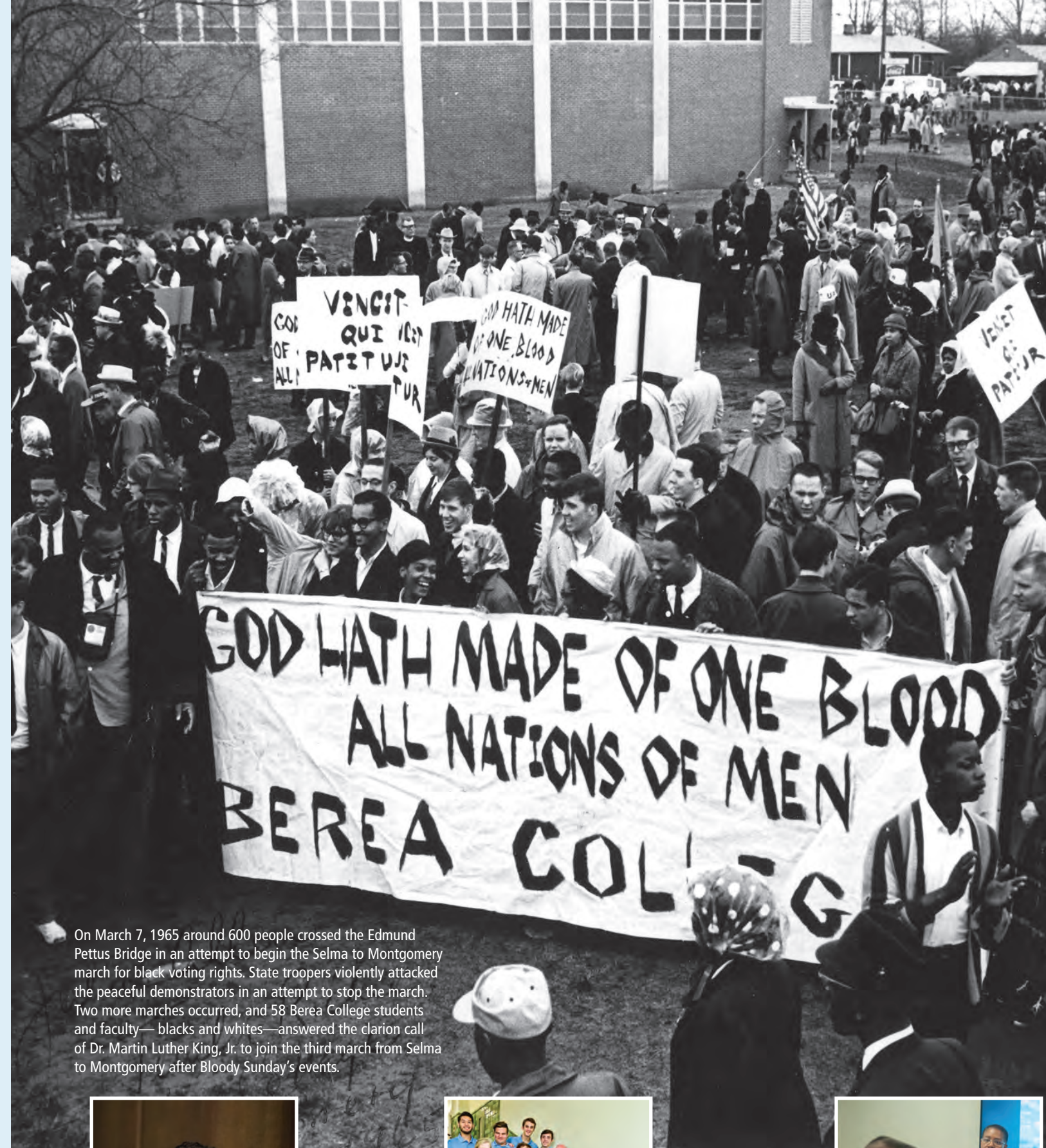
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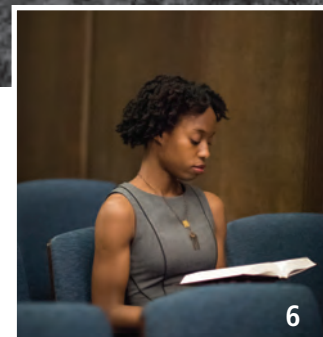
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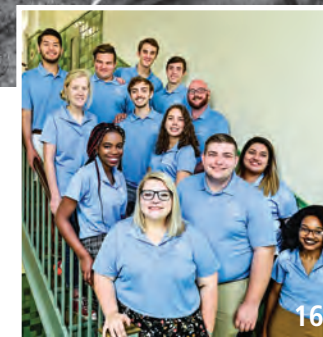
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On March 7, 1965 around 600 people crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in an attempt to begin the Selma to Montgomery march for black voting rights. State troopers violently attacked the peaceful demonstrators in an attempt to stop the march. Two more marches occurred, and 58 Berea College students and faculty—blacks and whites—answered the clarion call of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to join the third march from Selma to Montgomery after Bloody Sunday's events.



Anna Joines '17



Crystal Wylie '05



Abbie Darst '03

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 Appalachia is a beautifully diverse region. Hear from Affrilachian poets and how they express their African American and Appalachian roots.  
[www.berea.college/affrilachian-roots](http://www.berea.college/affrilachian-roots)

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

### Dear Berea Alumni and Friends,

What does it mean to be radical? One definition I was drawn to is: *(especially of change or action) relating to or affecting the fundamental nature of something; far-reaching or thorough.*

I think about the origins of Berea College, of our founders whose lives were threatened because the application of their Christian faith meant fostering an institution where everyone was accepted and treated equally in an interracial and coeducational environment. In the 1850s, when slavery was still supporting much of the country's economy and women's rights were next to non-existent, what Berea's founders strove for was radical—a far-reaching change in the fundamental nature of how society viewed those who deserved the right to an education. In 1892, when Berea decided not to charge students tuition, it didn't necessarily stand alone. But as time has passed, Berea's commitment to a no-tuition education for Appalachia's underprivileged yet standout students has proved to be a radically different concept—especially in today's world, where student-loan debt tops more than \$1.4 trillion.

From "going green" before going green was a thing to its inclusive Christian values that respect all religious beliefs—or none at all. From being one of only nine federally recognized work colleges to its commitment to equal treatment of and opportunity for LGBTQ+ students, faculty and staff. Berea doesn't shy away from the tension that exists in the world around it, but forges a path through the center, trying to seek what is right and fair, promoting love over hate, human dignity and equality, and peace with justice.

To me, though Berea has not always been perfect, its choice to stand in the tension, to not rest on its laurels, but to always be looking for ways to make the society into which it sends students better, is its far-reaching and thorough attempt to affect the fundamental nature of the world in which it has existed for 165 years—it is radically different.

In the 2020 issues of the *Berea College* magazine, you will get a taste of the pieces of Berea's past and present that demonstrate what makes Berea a college like no other. You'll read stories of faculty crossing boundaries to make a difference in the greater community. You'll read about students who stand up for what they believe and envision a future where injustice is diminished. Largely, you'll encounter stories of alumni who, in big and small ways, are taking the radically different perspective they learned at Berea and infusing it into their world—choosing to stand in the tension, to think differently and to act with passion and intention.

I hope you enjoy rediscovering what has made and continues to make Berea College radically different.

Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03  
 Editor



# Radical HOSPITALITY

The Gospel of Impartial Love in Theory and Practice

By Jason Lee Miller

Chris Radcliffe

## Too Christian, not Christian enough

It's not rare in America that a liberal arts college is church-affiliated. It's also not rare that a liberal arts college used to be church-affiliated.

What do we make of a school, then, that is both "distinctly Christian" and explicitly, intentionally not church-affiliated?

For the uninitiated student, answering this question can be difficult. To a non-Christian student, Berea can seem "too Christian" for one's taste. To the Evangelical, it can seem "not Christian enough."

It may be surprising to students, too, that the College is perfectly comfortable with leaving this question up for debate. What matters more to the folks at the Willis D. Weatherford, Jr. Campus Christian Center is that students are accepted for who they are, that they are supported in their respective spiritual and academic journeys and that they learn from each other.

The principles of acceptance, support and learning have their roots in the College's Christian founding by the Reverend John G. Fee, who was raised and ordained in the same Presbyterian tradition that spawned a long list of liberal arts schools such as Lake Forest, Monmouth and St. Andrews.

By the time John and Matilda Fee arrived on a ridge that would become Berea in 1853, they were no longer affiliated with the church due to a schism brought about by their stance against slavery. The disagreement would move the Fees to be critical of "sectarianism" as they built a new life, a new town, a new church and a new college they believed should be open to poor students regardless of race or gender.

This inscription greets the prayerful in Danforth Chapel, one of 24 college chapels funded by William H. Danforth, founder of the Ralston Purina Company. Every Danforth Chapel has a version of this inscription.

This radical new stance came to be called "the cause of Christ," rooted in "the gospel of impartial love." Today, this gospel serves as the foundation for Berea's endeavors.

## The Gospel of impartial love

In the beginning, John and Matilda Fee were working in an environment that was hostile to their views, even to the point of physical danger. They leaned on scripture for guidance, specifically the egalitarian passages of the New Testament. Christ's command that they love their neighbors as themselves both inspired their abolitionist advocacy and pulled them through a time of violence and crisis. Another verse, Acts 17:26, which in modern translation reads, "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth," reaffirmed faith in their mission to educate blacks and whites, women and men, together as equals.

That verse became the Berea College motto.

The Fees' situation was one of a lone voice in the wilderness, not only opposed by many churches, but sometimes by other abolitionists, who opposed slavery but did not go so far as to advocate for the equality of the races.

"It's hard for us to get our brains around that," said Rev. Dr. Loretta Reynolds, dean of the chapel at the Campus Christian Center, who has served the College for the past 21 years. "For them to say blacks and whites, men and women should be in the classroom together, should sit at the table and eat together—he was going farther than most. He was radical."

In forming the school, Fee was careful to impose a sort of separation of church and college by explaining Berea College was a liberal arts institution, not a bible college with the explicit aim of training pastors for ministry, though certainly some graduates might pursue that vocation. He was adamant, too, that the College not be associated with a particular denomination.

"I think Fee was concerned," Reynolds said, "that if you are connected to a larger entity like a denomination, then survival and being true to that particular organization becomes your



Dr. Loretta Reynolds

Crystal Wylie '05



Jennifer Lance '20

purpose. So he said we're not going to be connected. That left Berea to decide what it means to be founded on these very clear Christian doctrines but not having an external body telling us what it means in practical, day-to-day terms."

What it means in practical, day-to-day terms has changed over the decades. The world the Fees inhabited is not the same as the world today, nor is today the same as 20 years ago. Chapel services, once required, are now a matter of choice, and students also have more choice around classes in religion. The inclusive mission has expanded from serving primarily Christian men and women of two races to people of all genders and sexual orientations and all races, ethnicities and faiths.

In other words: all peoples of the earth, including their various belief systems.

"We have had this challenge and privilege of being able in every age and decade to talk about, revamp, tweak and decide in each generation what it means to be a liberal arts college with a Christian identity," Reynolds said. "What we're deciding it means in 2019 is different from what it meant in 1960. I have always been impressed that even

though certain elements have changed, those underlying qualities that were so important at the very beginning are still there: service, impartial love, the equality of all people. Those kinds of Christian values were there then, and they're still here today."

## The Great Commitments and the great American experiment

Rev. Dr. LeSette Wright, Berea College chaplain, ministers from her office in



Jennifer Lance '20

Draper Hall, which was built to evoke Independence Hall in Philadelphia, her hometown. She's new to the College and the campus community, coming to her current

position from Boston, where she led the chaplaincy coalition that responded to the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013. Today, in her quiet Berea office, she tends to a small plant in the corner, musing about how Berea's story is America's story.

"The United States has said, 'Give me your poor, your tired, yearning to breathe free,'" she recites, roughly, from the Statue of Liberty's poetic inscription. "Berea has that same proclamation. Fee saw that our freedom is in God's love for us. It's the freedom we all yearn for, and Berea is radical because it commits to walking alongside these populations. That's the beauty of who we are."

Like the U.S., Berea College has a constitution of sorts, adopted by the campus community in the 1960s and

periodically amended, known as the Great Commitments. The preamble of this document reiterates the founding charter—the purpose of providing a liberal arts education to disadvantaged students is "to promote the cause of Christ." The vision is predicated on inclusive Christian values advocating "the power of love over hate, human dignity and equality, and peace with justice."

There are eight commitments, and each grows out of these values and serves as an articulation of them. If one were to summarize them in one sentence, it might go like this: A liberal arts education, commonly available only to the elite, is made available to students regardless of social status; working alongside one another in the labor program promotes equality and dignity; that dignity, because of our Christian understanding, is extended to everyone, regardless of race or gender; living together in that shared dignity means caring for oneself, each other, and the earth; and these values extend to the region beyond campus to Appalachian families as well.

"All the commitments are one package," Reynolds adds. "If you look at them, the preamble lays the Christian foundation for all the other things. The concept of it being a Christian foundation permeating

everything else can really be seen in all our documents."

Reynolds notices the same pattern in the Wellness Wheel, a tool introduced to first-year students to help them adjust to young adulthood and college life in healthy ways.

Like with the Great Commitments, there are eight components dealing with emotional, financial, intellectual, occupational, physical, social, spiritual

"I have always been impressed that even though certain elements have changed, those underlying qualities that were so important at the very beginning are still there: service, impartial love, the equality of all people."  
— Dr. Loretta Reynolds

and sustainable wellness. Reynolds believes spirituality is both a component of the wheel and an underlying theme in all the components.

"When we talk about the Wellness Wheel," she said, "I think of spirituality, not so much as a piece of the pie, but as the pie crust, supporting all the components and holding them together. If you're talking about financial issues, there's a spiritual component. How do I want to use my money in this world? For good or for ill? Spirituality is the underlying foundation that holds it all together. I believe that about the Christian commitment for the College as well. The Christian values of impartial love, service to others and loving your neighbor as yourself provide the foundation of all the commitments. Not everyone would agree with me. I know that."

Everyone agreeing with each other isn't really the point. The point is learning how to be with each other, how we treat others and ourselves, and leaving the details for each person to decide on their own. In that way, the gospel of impartial love is stridently democratic and fraught with tension.

"Berea is a microcosm of this nation because it commits to living in the tension of that," said Wright. "There's courage in coming to the table to become a community that truly understands the multifaceted nature of impartial love."

## Radical hospitality

At the Campus Christian Center, there is another name for the gospel of impartial love. It's "radical hospitality." In daily practice, it means all paths lead to an open door there, as well as a person who will welcome you in or walk alongside you, whoever you are.

In terms of programming, radical hospitality drives efforts to meet the educational, spiritual and social needs of students, staff and faculty of all persuasions through interfaith efforts. On Thursdays, at lunchtime, the Campus



Chris Raadlife

Danforth Chapel is considered a safe space on campus where students, faculty and staff of all values and beliefs feel welcome to worship.

Christian Center hosts an interfaith program called Spiritual Seekers for discussions and speaker presentations to promote ecumenical conversation and engagement.

"I was a spiritual seeker myself in college, asking what I really believed," said Rev. Dr. Jake Hofmeister, college chaplain,



Crystal Wylie '05

Fee saw that our freedom is in God's love for us. It's the freedom we all yearn for, and Berea is radical...That's the beauty of who we are."  
— Dr. LeSette Wright

who comes to Berea from a Presbyterian background and chaplaincy work at Bellarmine University and Texas Christian University. Hofmeister runs interfaith programming at Berea and supervises student chaplains of various faiths. "The whole process is something I want to help others explore when they're at Berea."

Berea students come from various backgrounds and have varied faith experiences in college. For some, mere exposure to other ideas causes them to struggle to come to terms with their own faith backgrounds. For others, they step onto a campus with little or no representation of their faith background at all. Either situation can be

troubling for them. Without support, spiritual struggles can lead to academic and social struggles.

"In the classroom, students who have a particular religious identity, or an absolute truth claim, whether they're Evangelical, Muslim or agnostic, can have a hard time because liberal arts education challenges those absolute truth claims and asks the student to wrestle with them," Hofmeister said. "We want everybody to be fully themselves even if they have a particular view that excludes other truth ideas."

Mohlatlego Makgoba '19, who goes by Mo, served three years as a student chaplain. She came to Berea via South Africa with a faith background she



Chris Raadlife

Students like Terique Miller '21 (left) and graduate Ben Willhite '18 have experienced the Campus Christian Center's radical hospitality, which aims to meet the educational, spiritual and social needs of Berea's students, faculty and staff of all persuasions.

describes as Christian with traditional African influences. Mo joined the student chaplains her sophomore year while pursuing an economics degree. She hosted small interfaith events in her residence hall, led mindfulness activities and tried to find ways to connect her studies to her faith. She also took it as her personal mission to assist students who, like her, were far from home.

“Berea doesn’t have any mosques or temples or orthodox churches that students might need to be okay when they are away from home,” she said. “We would provide transportation to Lexington, Louisville or Cincinnati where they could find a community for their faith.”

Providing what students need to be okay is a primary motivation for interfaith programming at the Campus Christian Center, along with supplementing their education. While some may fear such interactions would be detrimental to faith, Mo describes the experience another way.

“The more you talk with different faith groups, the more you learn to appreciate your own faith,” she said. “That was integral to my growth. You have to love other people. Because of that you become closer to God.”

“Sometimes people have a hard time understanding how we can do all of that and still be the Campus Christian Center,” Reynolds said. “For us, we do that because we are the Campus Christian Center. We are called to this radical hospitality. We expect people to be their best selves, to support the commitments of the College, but our doors are open to everybody. The verse about accepting all people—it’s not just a suggestion.”

Hofmeister believes this openness—this radical hospitality—is a fundamental part of being a Christian modeled after Jesus’ own ministry. One example of this is the story of the woman at the well. In that story from the book of John, Jesus reaches out to a Samaritan woman, who was of a different faith.

“It’s highlighting the fundamental posture Jesus had was this radical hospitality,” Hofmeister said. “Jesus said, ‘I see that you’re from a different faith. Now go off and tell the world how I accepted you.’ His presence, his love, his ministry extended to anyone no matter what. And that’s how the woman evangelized. This person saw me for who I was, saw value in me, loved me even though I’m this, this, and this. Wow, that’s powerful.”



Anna Johns '17

Students like Guerds Jean '18 often sit in Danforth Chapel and read, pray, meditate or just seek solace from the busyness of campus life.

**BELOW:** The Tibetan Buddhist Monks of Labrang Tashikyil Monastery in Dehra Dun, India visited campus in February 2019. During their visit they constructed a sand mandala in the atrium of Hutchins Library, presented in classes and offered teachings from their Tibetan Buddhist tradition.



Abbie Darst '03

# The Reward of Music

By Cora Allison '22

Music has always captivated Wilkensley Thervil, a junior double major in Technology and Applied Design (TAD) and Computer Science. Born in Haiti without



access to musical instruments, his first introduction to them came after he immigrated to the United States in the fourth grade. He tried orchestra but found he was

more suited for band, where he developed his talent and honed his musical style.

During Thervil’s junior year of high school, he split his time between regular classes and trade school. One of his professors provided a list of colleges ranked by cost. Curious, Thervil glanced at the bottom of the list and saw Berea, followed by the words “tuition free.” He didn’t believe it at first but decided to apply.

Thervil joined the Black Music Ensemble (BME) his first semester at Berea, and credits it for helping him grow both musically and socially. Known on campus as Willy, Thervil is an essential addition to the BME as a percussionist, and he is a dependable and compassionate friend and student. He is also the 2019 recipient of the Red Foley Music Award, which recognizes students for their exemplary musical contributions to the campus community and assists with their personal advancement in music.

“Music is a passion, but at heart, I am a businessman,” he said, explaining how he loves the hands-on nature of TAD and working with technology and machines.

As for the BME, “It’s a family,” Thervil said. “It’s been a great experience. I go there to de-stress. I listen to what the musicians are doing—just observing and having a good time.”

That sense of community and playing for other people is important to Thervil.

“Music can be processed and integrated in many ways,” he said. “Some people use music as therapy, some as a part-time hobby, for fun or to make a living. If you and I listened to the same song, the way I feel about the song will be different from the way you feel about it.”

Thervil’s goals for his time at Berea and for his life seem to go hand-in-hand, as he seeks to learn as much as possible and make a difference in the lives of others.

“You never know how music can impact somebody. It does make a difference in some way, whether it is big or small,” he said.

Thervil continues to serve his community at Berea through his personal music ventures and time dedicated to individual lessons and student performances at events like the Black Student Union Homecoming Pageant and Unity Banquet. His fun-loving attitude and vivacious spirit allow for an ever-evolving and comfortable musical environment for Berea students.

For the past four decades, Berea has selected a recipient for the Red Foley Memorial Music Award. The prize is named after Red Foley, a distinguished musician who was born in Blue Lick, Ky., and grew up near Berea. As a young child, Foley played a variety of instruments with ease and performed regularly at his father’s general store. He attended the Berea Academy School and pursued his career as a musician, becoming a star and earning induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1967.

**ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:** Watch Wilkensley Thervil perform with the BME during the 2019 Berea College Christmas Concert at <https://bit.ly/36BeWeP>. The BME portion begins at 1:28:15.



Photos by Oluwatobi Adéjumo '20

Wilkensley Thervil '21 plays percussion for the Black Music Ensemble. Thervil is the 2019 Red Foley Music Award recipient and says he loves the family atmosphere of BME.

# Campus Christian Center Paves Way for Careers in *Christian Service*

By Jenny Poole

Instilling Reverend John G. Fee's "gospel of impartial love" into all Bereans is the true work of Berea's Campus Christian Center (CCC). Serving people of various backgrounds, faiths and life experiences fosters the ability to live out this "gospel" in a practical way through lives of service, especially in the student chaplains it cultivates. Former CCC chaplains Philip Sutherland, M.D. '05 and the Reverend Christina Cataldo '02 found their way into the CCC in unique ways. Both were empowered by this "gospel" and continue to practice this spirit of service in their professional and private lives today.

Dr. Sutherland was raised as a Mennonite. He grew up with electricity and access to a phone and a car, but he did not have TV or radio, much less internet in his home. After high school, he worked at a storage company and as an emergency medical technician and volunteer firefighter. Around that time, his grandfather—a Baptist minister—took a group bus tour that stopped at Berea College. He encouraged Philip to look into attending the College.

"I had been out of high school four or five years at the time and hadn't decided about college yet," Sutherland said. "I was already working, and the work-study aspect at Berea was welcomed by me, and I applied."

Sutherland became acquainted with his residence hall coordinator, who was

also a student chaplain. "I was almost immediately aware of the Campus Christian Center and wanted to be involved," he recalled. "I had a mixed concept of what Christianity was. Being involved in campus ministry was an opportunity for growth in faith and service and to get further training."

After becoming a student chaplain, Sutherland reflected on some of his experiences. "Students asked if they could come talk to me. Sometimes it was about matters of faith, and sometimes they wanted to discuss personal problems," he said. "It was a time of significant growth in my acceptance of other people, even if I didn't share their beliefs. The grace of God is bigger than a particular denomination."

During his time working with campus ministries, Sutherland considered attending medical school and had the opportunity to do a short-term service project in Haiti through a fellowship grant with the Campus Christian Center. He was in Haiti for a little more than two months, where he worked in a warehouse and assisted a doctor in the mountains treating patients without electricity.

"That was a learning and growing experience for me as well—to be able to serve and be a blessing to them," Sutherland said. "I got a lot out of it. It really planted a seed for what I wanted to do in the future."

After earning a bachelor's degree in



Philip Sutherland '05 brings a spirit of impartial love to the patients he treats at Clínica Médicos in Chattanooga, Tenn.

biology at Berea, he graduated from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine in 2011. In 2014, Sutherland pursued fellowship training in advanced obstetrics at *Clínica Médicos para la Familia* in Memphis. Currently, he is the assistant director at *Clínica Médicos*, a clinic serving the Latinx community in Chattanooga, Tenn., which is among the city's most underserved and vulnerable populations.

The clinic is bilingual, open seven days a week and treats patients with or without private insurance or Medicaid. No appointment is necessary. Offering "cradle-to-grave" care including obstetrics, contraceptives and diagnostic testing, Sutherland says the clinic tries to

serve the community by offering 90 percent of medical services under one roof. The clinic receives 1,400 patient visits a month and delivers 200 babies per year while operating with a strong undercurrent of Christian values.

While Sutherland's experiences in residential life and Berea's Campus Christian Center helped pave the way to medical service work for him that embodies the true spirit of inclusive Christianity, Reverend Christina Cataldo found her own path into a career that allows her to continue to serve others today.

Cataldo first learned about Berea College as a high school student in Knoxville, Tenn., through the Upward Bound program. During her first year at Berea, her roommate and dear friend tragically passed away after an illness. They had been friends for some time before heading off to college, and Cataldo was devastated by the loss. She turned to staff and other students for comfort. The support she received was so valuable to her that she decided she wanted a bigger role on campus.

"I wanted to be an RA (resident assistant) because of the great care I received when my great friend died," Cataldo recalled. "They gave me overwhelming support. I didn't expect all of what the school did to make sure I was OK. That's why I wanted to become an RA. I wanted to give the care I had received."

By working with fellow students, Cataldo got involved with the Campus Christian Center. She says they were just getting off the ground with student chaplains, and she had not considered a life in ministry work.

"I thought I was going to become a social worker," she admitted. "I would've never imagined doing what I'm doing now because I grew up never seeing women in ministry except for televangelists on TV. When I was home I was still going to a church that doesn't affirm women as clergy."

Cataldo received an email invitation to meet representatives of seminary

schools that would be in Berea to speak with students. She thought she had received the invitation by mistake and decided to talk with Rev. Dr. Loretta Reynolds, dean of the chapel, about it. She learned that there had been no mistake. Reynolds explained she had seen something in Cataldo that the student hadn't seen in herself. That, along with working two summers in Washington, D.C., with a summer camp for poor youth, paved the way to divinity school.

Cataldo credits Berea with helping her earn a scholarship to Wake Forest University Divinity School in North Carolina. "Wake Forest saw Berea backing me up, and they respected the investment Berea had in me," she said.

After her time at Berea, Cataldo came out as gay and met her wife, Dr. Tasha Dunn, in 2007 before same-sex marriage was legal in most places. She became the pastor at Winthrop Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Maine in 2014, and continues her work in ministry and service there. She and her church serve the community by supporting the food pantry and working with a group that provides toiletries and other basic essentials to new immigrants and refugees.

Winthrop Congregational is Open and Affirming, a designation within the denomination intended to demonstrate the Christian faith by welcoming individuals of every race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, family structure, marital standing, socio-economic status, age and physical and mental ability to join in the ministry of the church. All are invited to participate in worship, fellowship and leadership.

Cataldo is very proud of her work with the Anti-Racism Resource Team committed to dismantling racism in all its forms as part of Christian practice.

"As a Christian and a pastor, I am committed to loving my neighbors," she said. "We are all made of one blood, but our experiences vary greatly. I try to pay attention to the lived experiences of people whose lives are very different from mine, particularly in terms of their experiences with racism, to amplify their voices, and use my white privilege in service to my neighbors. My experience at Berea has been part of my foundation in this work." ■



Reverend Christina Cataldo '02 (right) stands with Reverend Sandra Greene, a classmate from Wake Forest Divinity School. Rev. Greene was invited to preach at Cataldo's church.

# Adopting a *Spirit of Service*

By Jason Lee Miller

When Reverend Steve Peake '74 was a boy, he sat in a one-room segregated schoolhouse in tiny Fleming-Neon, Ky., listening to women from a nearby



Christian organization tell the story of John the Baptist. They brought with them an easel and Bible characters cut from felt that they placed upon a board to tell the children the “good news” of the Gospel.

“That interested me early in life, to hear them tell those stories,” Rev. Peake said, noting that his ministry today focuses on these same stories with hopes of inspiring people to want to know more about Christ.

Peake attended that little segregated school through the sixth grade. In the seventh grade, the schools were finally integrated, which Peake describes as a smooth transition because he had been playing with the local white children all his young life anyway. They were already friends. Next door lived foster children of multiple races raised by black parents. When he grew up, Steve wanted to help children like them.

“I wanted to be a social worker, a

child adoption agent. That was my dream. I thought my purpose in life must be to work with children and get them adopted into good homes.”

Making good on these plans began with attending Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Ky., for two years. When the two years were up, a dean at the college took Peake and three other students to Berea College, a place they could continue their education. Peake chose to attend and majored in sociology.

At Berea, Peake discovered an environment much more diverse than the community he was used to back in Fleming-Neon, which he says had perhaps only 25 black children in it. “At Berea,” he said, “I met all these different colors of people. I learned that people

might be different, but they’re similar in so many ways.”

At Berea, I met all these different colors of people. I learned that people might be different, but they’re similar in so many ways. — Rev. Steve Peake

might be different, but they’re similar in so many ways.”

He found, too, a campus community interested in his success. “It was like they understood

poor people. The counselors didn’t seem like they were above the students. They treated you well, like they cared. I think they had a commitment to showing students who were far from home, or just down the road from home, that they cared about them. That was the thing that stuck out to me.”

Though he graduated with a sociology degree, finding work in adoption services back home proved elusive. Instead, Peake took up employment at

Appalachian Regional Healthcare, (ARH) first as an operating room technician and then as a billing clerk. He retired from ARH in 2015, after 39 years. He did, however, live out his dream of getting children adopted in another, more spiritual than literal way: by joining the clergy.

His call to minister to the children of God came through his stomach. Women at the church, he discovered, were cooking dinner every Sunday, which was motivation to attend. When he got there, the men in the church invited him to sing in the choir. Because he was a college graduate, the church later asked him to teach Sunday school. Soon, Peake was ordained as a deacon and was reading scripture on a local minister’s radio show.

“My mentor was a gray-headed white gentleman who was a diesel mechanic by trade, but also a minister.” One day, that radio minister handed Peake the reins.

“He said, ‘Son, I’m going to open with prayer, take about 15 minutes, and then I’m going to turn it over to you. You talk to people on the air, and whatever you got to tell them, you tell them.’”

In 1991, Peake formally accepted the call to ministry. Once ordained, he took over preaching duties at two small churches that met on alternating Sundays, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist in Pikeville and his home church, Corinth Missionary Baptist.

“I focus on telling the stories to inspire people to want to know more

“This mix of people at Berea helped me learn you can be friends with people who don’t have to be your race. We all have a purpose. Everybody wants to be loved and accepted. — Rev. Steve Peake

about Christ,” Peake said. “A lot of people are drawn in through the stories. I always wanted to be a child adoption agent, and this minister said to me, you are an adoption agent because you’re getting people adopted into the family of God.”

This spiritual adoption business is soon to grow. Though Peake has pastored only black churches in his 28 years of ministry, a woman from a nearby church with a predominantly white congregation recently invited him to come preach to them. Peake feels ready for this new branch of ministry, in part, because of what he learned at Berea.

“The mix of people at Berea,” Peake said, “helped me learn you can be friends with people who don’t have to be your race. We all have a purpose. Everybody wants to be loved and accepted.”



Reverend Steve Peake '74 stands in the pulpit at Corinth Missionary Baptist Church, Fleming-Neon, Ky.



# Welcome to Worship

The Campus Christian Center mentors students to focus on diversity, inclusion and love

By Daniela Pirela-Manares '20

The Campus Christian Center (CCC) is a special place. An essential component of campus life, the CCC is committed to cultivating an atmosphere of radical hospitality and nurturing the spiritual wellness of the Berea College community. Using Berea College founder Rev. John G. Fee and his wife, Matilda, as inspiration, the center promotes the Christian faith in many contexts, including pastoral counseling and interfaith dialogue.

The staff at the CCC is dedicated to living mindful lives and encourages the Berea College community to do the same. Coming from a variety of backgrounds and specialized in many areas, each member of the CCC has one's own story to tell.

"I love Berea's mission, what it's about, and if a college could be my personal faith, Berea would be it," said Rev. Dr. Jake Hofmeister, one of three College chaplains.

A Presbyterian pastor who promotes engagement with different religions, Hofmeister's focus is interfaith dialogue. He hopes the CCC is a place for all students to come and learn from one another.

The CCC dedicates itself to serving the campus community, an area in which Rev. Dr. LeSette Wright, one of the College's chaplains, is an expert. In her career, Wright has navigated multiple difficult experiences, including the 9/11 attacks, the bombing at the Boston Marathon and working with survivors of the mass shooting at Sandy



LEFT TO RIGHT: Rev. Dr. LeSette Wright, College chaplain; Rev. Dr. Loretta Reynolds, dean of the chapel; Marsha Elliot, Campus Christian Center office manager; and Rev. Dr. Jake Hofmeister, College chaplain. These individuals help cultivate an atmosphere of radical hospitality and nurture the spiritual wellness of the Berea College community.

Hook Elementary School. A counselor at heart, Wright created disaster response chaplaincy ministry to help people deal with extensive trauma.

"God said to me, 'This is your journey; this is what I've called you to do,'" Wright explained. "I've called you to be my hands and feet on earth, wherever that is. Wherever that takes you."

The College's dean of the chapel, Rev. Dr. Loretta Reynolds, was told she would "get over" the phase of wanting to be a minister more times than she can count. Nevertheless, Reynolds pursued higher education where she faced

challenges: being one of two women in a class, having never heard a woman preaching before doing so herself, and having people put their legs up and read the newspaper while she preached her sermons.

"With my denomination, I would have been limited," she recalled. "One of the many wonderful things about Berea is that, because it is nonsectarian, I am welcome and accepted here. The beauty of Berea is that it welcomes everybody."

The stand John G. and Matilda Fee took on women and education is one of the reasons Reynolds fell in love with Berea and its commitments. She and the



The CCC provides its student chaplains with opportunities for growth in areas of religious and spiritual leadership. This includes learning and developing skills in peer counseling, programming, leadership, interfaith dialogue and religious education.

other CCC staff work to instill these commitments in the student chaplains who serve with the CCC as well.

## Promoting student service

Student chaplains are essential to the CCC. They go through multiple trainings and workshops, and they serve as a liaison between the Berea student body, the CCC and other student organizations on campus.

Any student can apply to become a chaplain, which encourages interfaith relationships and creates an inviting atmosphere for everybody on campus. Chaplains come from a wide variety of backgrounds, areas of study and religious identities.

“When I applied, I thought to myself, ‘This isn’t even a job,’” said Mohlatlego “Mo” Makgoba ’19, an international student from South Africa who worked as a student chaplain for three years while at Berea.

Makgoba decided to apply as a student chaplain because of the example set by the chaplain in her first-year residence hall.

“She seemed like she had her life together and a spiritual relationship with God,” Makgoba recalled. “It went along with being nice to everybody and being inclusive. It didn’t even seem like a job, just a fun thing to do.”

Aside from responsibilities such as organizing programs, student chaplains are trained in peer counseling and are ready to lend an ear to students who need it.

“They need to know we are here for them,” Makgoba said. “While working, I was happy there was a space where people could come in, get coffee and talk to people who wanted to listen. People can take for granted the fact that they are there to provide community. Religion for



The Campus Christian Center provides opportunities for worship, prayer/meditation, devotional study of Christian scripture and interfaith conversation. Its professional chaplains offer pastoral counseling for all members of the College community, and a trained student team provides peer counseling and spiritual support to fellow students.

a lot of people is a family thing, where you go to church because your parents do. But then you go to college and you are exposed to different ideas. So you need somebody to navigate with you.”

She explained that religion shapes lives, and while in college, people’s ideas are going to be challenged. That’s part of what makes student chaplains’ roles so relevant.

In addition to helping other students, chaplains often need to reflect on their own beliefs. “It’s hard being a chaplain,” Makgoba said, “especially, when you encounter people whose religion is different from yours. If you’re not mature in your religion, it can become very intimidating.”

Fresh Start student chaplains, those dedicated to first-year students, are trained to help students transition from high school to college. Their job is to talk to these first-year students, maintain specific contact hours and offer programs in residence halls.

“Sometimes students aren’t comfort-

able going to the College chaplains,” Mattie Jenkins ’22, a Fresh Start chaplain said. “Because this is my job, I have the time, the space and the means to build relationships with them, which hopefully will make it easier for them to come to me with things that they are struggling with.”

Noé Guevara ’21, another Fresh Start chaplain, agreed.

“Your reaction won’t be the same if a student chaplain knocks on your door than if a college chaplain comes knocking,” he explained, laughing.

His way of reaching out to students often includes knocking on all of their doors handing out candy and checking in. “I put myself out there for whatever my students might need.”

Likewise, Jenkins looks for ways to encourage students to grow in their religion. She invites students to open up and interact through a prayer request bag on her door, or sitting in the lobby offering jelly beans to students in exchange for questions about spirituality.

Jenkins, a Spanish major who



Mattie Jenkins '22

wants to be a missionary, considers her chaplain job to be important because it helps her meet people wherever they are in their spiritual journey.

“As a chaplain, I am an advocate for spiritual life,” Jenkins said. “In turn, being a chaplain has helped me grow in leadership and intentionality.”

Student chaplains also are considered servant leaders. For Guevara, being a chaplain was not an option at the beginning. But after getting the job, he fell in love with the idea of serving others.

“When I was a first-year student, I didn’t know anything,” he explained, “I want to be there for my students the same way I wish a chaplain would have helped me.”

Being a chaplain contributes to learning time management, flexibility and how to talk to people of different faiths, Guevara said. As a future teacher, these skills are essential for his career path.

“As a teacher, you will be exposed to different beliefs, peoples and backgrounds, so being a chaplain has created a good exposure beforehand,” he said.

“This job has been a big blessing because I talk to everybody,” Guevara added. “It can be hard at times, but “that’s what I’m here for.”

# WHY A Labyrinth?

By Daniela Pirela-Manares '20

When you visit Berea College, you might ask: “Why is there a labyrinth next to the Hutchins Library?”

The answer to that question dates back to before the College even opened its doors, according to Rev. Dr. Loretta Reynolds.

“About 15 years ago, labyrinths became popular as a tool for spiritual meditation and prayer, but the idea of a labyrinth as a meditation and spiritual-growth space goes back about 4,000 years,” she said. One of the best examples may be in Chartres Cathedral in France.

Because she is a part of the National Association of College and University Chaplains, Reynolds had the opportunity to visit multiple campuses where she saw various labyrinths. She thought having one at Berea College would be very appropriate and worked on creating one for 10 years.

Berea College’s commitment to inclusivity and its welcoming of different values and beliefs ensures there are safe spaces on campus, including Danforth Chapel in the

Draper building and the All People’s Prayer Chapel in the Alumni building. Reynolds hopes the labyrinth becomes one of these spaces.

“People tend to confuse labyrinths with mazes,” she said. Reynolds explained that unlike labyrinths, the purpose of mazes is to get lost. With a labyrinth, however, people are supposed to walk the circuitous path with a mantra, meditation or a question in hopes to self-reflect or relieve stress.

A gift from the Campus Christian Center, the labyrinth will have a dedication service during the spring semester of 2020 once the space surrounding it is complete. Reynolds has taken students there, and her hope is to continue educating the community on what it is and how it can be helpful.

“One thing we hear about students all the time is how stressed they are, and we hope the labyrinth can help,” Reynolds said. “The beauty of it is that it is available to everybody.”



Berea’s student chaplains stand on the Berea College labyrinth, based on the Abingdon à la Chartres design. It was constructed in spring 2019 in the grassy area beside Hutchins Library near Phelps Stokes Chapel.



This fall, Berea students performed the play, "Playing with Fire: After Frankenstein," written by Barbara Field and directed by Natalie Romeo. In this scene, student Josiah Cook '23 (left) reacts to being struck by lightning as Jacob Romeo '22 turns away. Lights/projections and scenery designed by Lexi Bass; costumes designed by Ami Shupe. Make-up and hair designed by Joy DeTore '20, Sam Jones '22 and Lea Beckmann '24.

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# From Our World to Theirs

## Berea professor conducts diversity training to build relationships between police and campus community

By Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03

In the summer and fall of 2012, two unarmed African American teenage boys were shot and killed, sparking protests and launching what would become the Black Lives Matter movement. The fatal shootings of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla., and Jordan Davis in Jacksonville, Fla., were followed by incidents of white police officers being charged and then acquitted in the deaths of African Americans Eric Garner (New York), John Crawford (Ohio) and Michael Brown (Missouri). Racial tension across America was on the rise. And protests and riots in New York City and Ferguson, Mo., had the country on edge.

In Berea, Ky., then–Police Chief David Gregory saw the tide changing and wanted to get out in front of it in

both community and college relations. “These incidents involved community and police, and with Berea College here, we have students from all across

“I wanted to build relationships, be transparent and humanize ourselves with the public.”  
— David Gregory

the country, and especially from areas where relationships with police are not the best,” Gregory said. “I wanted to have meetings with students to let them

know the police they were used to dealing with were not what Berea was. We were human and good people.”

Gregory pursued two avenues to build positive relationships between law enforcement and Berea College’s diverse student population. He went to forums and listened as students said they wanted more dialog with the police and a space to talk about ideas like implicit bias. In addition, Gregory sought out diversity training for his officers. He turned to Berea City Council member Virgil Burnside ’74, who also served as Berea’s vice president for Student Life, who suggested he work with Dr. Kennaria Brown. A communication professor, Brown was teaching a class on interracial communication and had provided corporate-level diversity training.

Over the course of more than six months, Brown created a diversity training curriculum for the Berea Police Department (BPD) based on components from her interracial communication course, research in law enforcement

and input from Gregory on his training goals.

“I wanted officers to have cultural awareness,” Gregory said about the training development process. “There are a lot of international students on campus and many other dynamics and cultures they could be facing. I wanted to build relationships, be transparent and humanize ourselves with the public.”

In 2013, Brown kicked off the mandatory training with BPD officers.

“I want to be empathetic and recognize the challenges of the work they do,” Brown said, “But I challenge them. It is not an easy or comfortable training, but they rise to the occasion.”

“When we first did it, I didn’t really believe the officers were receptive to it,” Gregory said. “But once Dr. Brown finished, she received feedback thanking her for the training, saying it was eye-opening and helped them see into themselves and the ways they were raised. Many said it was the best training they had had and thanked me for making it mandatory.”

This positive response prompted Brown and Gregory to revisit the idea of more collaboration and additional training. In 2016, Brown requested funding from the Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Program (URCPP), a College-funded program to enhance student learning by providing opportunities for the engagement of challenging, collaborative and directed



Dr. Kennaria Brown (center) met with small groups of Berea police officers this past summer to talk about unconscious bias and how it affects their jobs and relationships with the community.

projects in an apprentice-mentor relationship with faculty.

“In 2013 [the police] came to my world and in 2016, I went to their world,” Brown explained about the drastic difference in this summer-long program and training.

The two students participating in the program spent the summer riding along with police officers and conducting community surveys. One of the students was from a community in Alabama where there was intense animosity between the African American community and the police department—and the police department there is primarily African American, as well, Brown explained.

“Racial disparity is not just about the race of officers; it’s not that simple,” Brown said. “If a section of the community is criminalized, the race of the officers doesn’t matter; and this young man saw that first-hand. He came in willing to work with me, but it was more about our relationship than any

commitment to the police. But doing the ride-alongs, doing the policing research, getting to know officers and developing relationships—that was really powerful for him and something he carries with him to this day.”

The two students spent significant time with Berea’s officers, eating with them, seeing them deal with tragic accidents and personally experiencing what officers see and experience each day in their jobs.

“They saw the human side and how it affects us,” Gregory said. “From what the students told me in our debriefings, one thing that really touched me was they discovered these weren’t just police officers. They knew this is Officer Smith, and he has two kids and something going on in his life besides just policing.”

These students and Brown then took their experiences back to campus and helped open lines of communication and connection between the police and students.

“When we have conversations or have an issue with a crime, [students] are not afraid to work with us or talk with us,” Gregory said. “Just by word of mouth, we got into the community. The ride-alongs made the students stand up for us and say, ‘This is a good community.’”

Just as Brown’s classroom instruction influenced her police training, over time her police training has impacted her teaching. She brings law enforcement material into her classes and uses stories of interaction in the classroom, as well.

“We talk about the police, and we don’t gloss over the problem,” Brown said. “But we talk about the problems, what’s being done to combat them, and those who are doing it right and being proactive in their communities, like our agency that is interested in building constructive relationships.”

This past summer, Brown conducted her third round of training with BPD officers focused on recognizing, understanding and mitigating implicit bias. She said she truly gravitated from her world to theirs. She used few resources from her interracial communication class this time, but instead used new research and her experience with officers to craft implicit-bias training specific to policing.

“I’ve grown over the years in knowing what to bring, what’s effective and what they can use,” she said.

Conducted in groups of about five officers, the training allowed for deep dialog, the ability to ask and answer uncomfortable questions and the capacity for officers to reflect on attitudes and behaviors in ways they might not have been able to do before. Brown also participated in officer ride-alongs prior to these trainings, which allowed her to immerse herself in their world and built trust and understanding among her and the officers.

“So I stay a work-in-progress as I learn and grow,” Brown said, “and I pass that along to my students.”

# Finding Their Place

How two sisters navigated a conservative perspective in an inclusive space

By Chad Berry

Berea's founding motto that "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth" has always set a high bar in terms of inclusion and belonging. Its inclusive Christian values and its approach to the spiritual dimension of life are radically different. On the one hand, secular institutions often devalue spiritual dimensions of lives well lived. On the other, church-related schools often focus on just one particular version of Christianity, sometimes devaluing other versions as well as other faith traditions.

While this spiritual inclusivity brings great value in offering learning opportunities to everyone, few new arrivals to the Berea campus have experienced a community that values the spiritual dimension of life without elevating a specific version. In particular, students who come to college from conservative faith backgrounds as well as some from mainline backgrounds may have difficulty being open minded about other religious traditions; hence, such students can face significant challenges in feeling welcome in a community of religious diversity. Despite, or perhaps because of, how challenging this religious pluralism can be, many graduates of Berea testify to the profound opportunities for growth offered by this radical difference.

Two sisters—both alumnae who have returned to their southwest Virginia community—had college experiences that show just how radically different Berea's inclusive spirit can be.

Kena Long Sizemore '03 graduated from high school a year early, at 16. "At that age, it's difficult to know what direction you want your life to go," she admitted. "I knew what was important to me at that time," though, "my faith and my family." Her father had always encouraged his children to get a higher education, so it was a given that she would attend college. "I was accepted to several colleges, but the labor program, 'free' tuition and location of Berea made it an easy choice."

Life in Rose Hill, Va., compared to Berea, Ky., was different. "My initial impression was a whirlwind," Sizemore said. "I had only had my driver's license less than a year. I had made very few decisions on my own."

Still, she said, "I never remember a time when I felt like I didn't have someone I could go to, or somewhere I could get assistance with whatever I needed. I think that was my first impression," she explained. "I felt at home in a place where I knew practically no one."

"To sum up my years at Berea," she reflected, "I began as a young girl with a strict Christian belief. I met many who understood and many who didn't. I met many who respected my faith and some who didn't. I took the same courses, had the same professors and lived in the same dorms as my peers. The years flew

by," though, she remembered, "and I was introduced to new lectures, new foods, new ideas and new people."

Her younger sister, Ashley Long Seals '09, would eventually follow Kena to Berea with her faith in tow. "We always considered ourselves conservative when it came to religion," she explained. "I never really knew we were

considered different until I was well into middle school. At home we called ourselves Holiness. Elsewhere we may have been considered Holy Rollers." No matter what she and other believers were called, she said, "it meant we were peculiar," but that notion was a moniker embraced from Deuteronomy 14:2 (King James Version): "For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth."

For both sisters, the key to their persistence and success at Berea was mentoring and advising from a host of faculty, staff and even students. "I met another freshman during my first year," Sizemore recalled, "who would become my best friend and roommate. We were from different states and different majors, but we became lifelong friends." She was "blessed" to work at the circulation desk at Hutchins Library all four years, where Barbara Power '56 "treated me like family."

"I maintained the same religious beliefs that I was raised with while at Berea, and I still believe the same things."  
— Ashley Long Seals '09

Mrs. Power also figured prominently in Ashley's academic life. "I had a rough go at first," she said. "I never really had people to make me feel unwanted. I felt like I belonged at Berea." But homesickness was acute. "Being from the mountains of southwest Virginia," she explained, "it is a common trait to be homesick." Eventually she had friends and "a small, but very real community. I was able to connect to my sister's labor supervisor, Barbara Power. She knew my story was much like Kena's, and she loved me for it. And oh, how I loved her."

Finding an academic advisor also enhanced her sense of belonging, Seals said, one who "listened to me and understood a little about my beliefs and background. I felt I was able to tell him that I was homesick without danger of being belittled or made to feel less than."

Sizemore and Seals earned first-rate

degrees, but how did Berea affect their faith? Seals says emphatically that Berea made her a stronger Christian. "I maintained the same religious beliefs that I was raised with while at Berea, and I still believe the same things. However, this never stopped me from making friends and loving each of them," she added. "I would like to think that they loved me, too! Kindness is not reserved for only those that mirror you. Kindness should be a human condition," she explained.

During a study-abroad trip to Egypt, Seals recalled, "I studied Islamic religion and was able to sing a home-grown Pentecostal gospel song to a backyard full of people of the Muslim faith. Where else but Berea College?"

Sizemore reflected, "As a person matures and grows through personal experience, you see things differently. I began my college experience as a young,

somewhat sheltered child, with a strong Christian faith and limited experience in the world. I was vulnerable."

Her life changed completely with her move to Berea. Over time, she said, "I learned it was important to trust my instincts, hold firmly to my values and make my own path."

"Go!" is Seals' message to students like her. "You will encounter people just like you, and people nothing like you. You will hear languages you never knew existed, you will learn of traditions from around the globe, and you will make friends with people you never thought you would have the opportunity of being friends with. Go!," she urges. "You will learn so much from them, and they will learn so much from you." Berea, she concluded, "will help you see how unique you are, and make you appreciate the sound of your sweet Mama's voice even more." ■



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ashley Long Seals '09 stands with her father, Larry Long; her mother, Carolyn Long; and her sister, Kena Long Sizemore '03 in their Rose Hill, Va., community. Ashley and Kena came to Berea College with a Holiness faith and flourished in their time on campus through mentoring relationships with faculty and staff, and friendships that strengthened their Christian background.

# Writing for Justice

## Berea alumna and journalist focuses her work on migration, human rights and gender equality

By Cora Allison '22

“When I met them, I didn’t know if they would live to tell their story,” recalled journalist Alice Driver ’03. “At that point they had both already experienced assassination attempts.”

Two transgender women from El Salvador were seeking asylum in the United States, and their struggle piqued the interest and concern of Driver, a Berea alumna working as an investigative reporter at the

U.S.–Mexico border.

The road leading to the discovery of these women’s travails was not paved by serendipity, but hard work and determination. While Driver was working on her book, “More or Less Dead,” and studying violence against women at the U.S.–Mexico border, she noticed almost all of the trans women she met were from El Salvador. She began to wonder what the catalyst was for this specific community to flee their country.

“It wasn’t scientific,” Driver said. “It was me interviewing people and asking questions.”

Determined to find out what was causing this disruption in the LGBTQ+ community, Driver contacted her editor at Longreads, a website devoted to long-form journalism, and notified him

that she was following a story on trans women from El Salvador. Through the legions of people she met at the border, she received recommendations from other migrants to find Karla Avelar, a trans woman who ran Comcavis Trans, a non-governmental organization in El Salvador. Avelar introduced Driver to Marfil Estrella, who struggled with gang violence against the LGBTQ+ community. With limited employment opportunities, she resorted to sex work on the streets for survival. Estrella planned to leave the country at 3 a.m. the next morning, catching a bus to migrate to the United States and request asylum.

Driver knew if Estrella stayed in El Salvador, she may not live. She gently requested, “Can I go with you?”

Estrella agreed despite the fact the two had just met, and they were on their way to Mexico by bus, anticipating the dangerous challenges ahead. Upon arriving in Mexico after crossing the Suchiate River on a raft, Estrella requested a humanitarian visa: a process that takes months. In Tapachula, Mexico, Driver and Estrella went their separate ways with promises to keep in touch.

In October 2017, Estrella requested asylum in the U.S. and was held in a male detention center for seven

months—a potentially dangerous placement.

With support from Reveal, a publication network from the Center for Investigative Reporting, Driver was able to find out the name of the detention center where Estrella was held. She sent her a letter with her phone number because the detention center would only allow those detained to make calls, not receive them. At her asylum hearing, Estrella provided evidence of the violence she had experienced, and the judge granted her asylum. She is now living in San Diego and has legally changed her name to Michelle—something that was illegal for her to do in El Salvador. She is working to support herself and attending community college, where she is studying English.

Following Estrella’s story felt necessary for Driver. “This is why asylum exists,” she said.

According to Driver, writing is how she seeks justice and equality in a world she views as far from achieving either.

“If I went to a college where I had \$100,000 in debt, I wouldn’t be writing,” she said. “That, to me, is a gift because we should want students to be doing things that are meaningful and that they love.”

Driver’s humble beginnings allowed her to find Berea College in the late 1990s, which placed an affordable college education within her reach.

She grew up in Oark, Ark., on the family homestead her parents built during the back-to-the-land movement in the 1970s. Both of her parents are artists—her mom, a weaver, and her dad, a potter. The need for medical insurance by the time Driver was 14 compelled her family to look for work elsewhere, and her father found a full-time job as a ceramics professor at a university in Kentucky.

After teaching a ceramics workshop at Berea, Driver’s dad encouraged her to visit the College. His enthusiasm was matched by her initial reluctance. All of that changed when she stepped on campus.



Alice Driver conducts interviews in Tapachula, Mexico with migrants who have lost their limbs while riding the train known as “The Beast,” a freight train used by U.S.–bound migrants to more quickly traverse the length of Mexico. The risks of riding these trains are high and many riders are left with life-altering injuries that limit their capacity to work.

“As soon as I visited campus I loved it,” Driver admitted. “I really felt at home.”

When she began at Berea, she enrolled in her first-ever Spanish class. “I was terrible, and I loved it,” she said.

While she was excited to be studying the language, a trip to Mexico during her sophomore year with a group of students and Spanish professors Fred de Rosset and Margarita Graetzer set the stage for Driver to fall in love with the language. While there, she stayed with a host family and was fully immersed in the culture.

“Going to Mexico totally changed my life,” said Driver, who had only traveled outside of the U.S. once before that trip. “Both of my Spanish professors were part of that; they’re still like family.”

As a student, she pursued her love of Spanish in the classroom and worked both as a server at Boone Tavern Hotel and Restaurant and as a teaching assistant. She graduated from Berea with no student-loan debt and a degree in Spanish and English.

“I’m not married, I don’t have kids, I travel like a maniac, I’m my own boss and I do whatever I want,” she said.

Shortly after Driver completed her

doctoral program in Hispanic studies at the University of Kentucky with a focus on Latin American literature, she realized she was not interested in writing academic articles on pre-existing works.

“I never wanted to be the person writing on what other people wrote; I wanted to be the one writing,” Driver said.

After completing her program, she was unsure of her next steps but was confident in two things: she wanted to live in Mexico and work for herself. Driver received a postdoctoral fellowship from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) that allowed her to support herself as a journalist and finish her book.

She continues to report on migration in Central America. She has been published in *Time* magazine and *National Geographic*, and she has been featured on CNN. Driver is currently working alongside *National Geographic* photographer John Stanmeyer to document a global migration project. 📄

Find links to Alice Driver’s writing in publications like *National Geographic* and *Longreads* at [www.berea.college/writing-for-justice](http://www.berea.college/writing-for-justice).



Alice Driver works on a short documentary film in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

# Spring 2020 Athletic Schedules\*

## Women's Softball

Feb. 29	noon	Methodist University (DH)	Berea, KY
March 2	10:15 am	at Widner University	Clermont, FL
March 2	12:30 pm	at Adrian College	Clermont, FL
March 3	10 am	at St. Vincent College	Clermont, FL
March 3	12:15 pm	at Rosemont College	Clermont, FL
March 5	10 am	at Northland College	Clermont, FL
March 5	12:15 pm	at Roanoke College	Clermont, FL
March 6	10 am	at Illinois College	Clermont, FL
March 6	2:30 pm	at York College	Clermont, FL
March 12	5:30 pm	Spalding University	Berea, KY
March 14	noon	at Mary Baldwin University	Staunton, VA
March 15	11 am	at Averett University	Danville, VA
March 17	2 pm	Maryville College	Berea, KY
March 21	1 pm	at Wesleyan College	Macon, GA
March 22	noon	at Agnes Scott College	Decatur, GA
March 26	3 pm	at Wilmington College	Wilmington, OH
March 28	noon	Huntingdon College	Berea, KY
March 30	3 pm	Franklin College	Berea, KY
April 4	1 pm	at LaGrange College	LaGrange, GA
April 5	noon	at Piedmont College	Demorest, GA
April 8	2 pm	Covenant College	Berea, KY
April 9	2 pm	at Alice Lloyd College	PippaPasses, KY
April 11	1 pm	Brevard College	Berea, KY
April 18	TBD	USA South Conference Tournament	TBD
April 19	TBD	USA South Conference Tournament	TBD



## Men's and Women's Track and Field

Dec. 6	TBA	Kentucky Blue and White Invite	Lexington, KY
Jan. 10-11	TBA	Kentucky Indoor Invitational (Qualifiers Only)	Lexington, KY
Feb. 8	TBA	IU Hoosier Invitational (Qualifiers Only)	Bloomington, IN
Feb. 22	TBA	STEEMER Classic	Springfield, OH
Feb. 29	TBA	Fred Wilt Invitational	Anderson, IN
March 13-14	TBA	Rhodes Invitational	Memphis, TN
March 20-21	TBA	Pioneer Invitational	Lexington, KY
March 27-28	TBA	Jim Vargo Bellarmine Invitational	Louisville, KY
April 4	TBA	Centre Invitational	Danville, KY
April 10-11	TBA	Cumberland Invitational	Williamsburg, KY
April 20-21	TBA	USA South Conference Championships	Berea, KY
May 1-2	TBA	Kentucky Open	Lexington, KY
May 7-8	TBA	Dr. Keeler Invitational	Naperville, ILL



## Women's Tennis

March 7	11 am	Brevard College	Berea, KY
March 21	TBA	Piedmont College	Berea, KY
March 28	TBA	Covenant College	Berea, KY
March 31	TBA	Maryville College	Berea, KY
April 4	TBA	at LaGrange College	LaGrange, GA
April 5	2 pm	at Huntingdon College	Montgomery, AL
April 18	TBA	at Maryville College	Maryville, TN

\*All schedules subject to change. Visit [www.bereaathletics.com](http://www.bereaathletics.com) for the most up-to-date information and to view team rosters.



## Men's Tennis

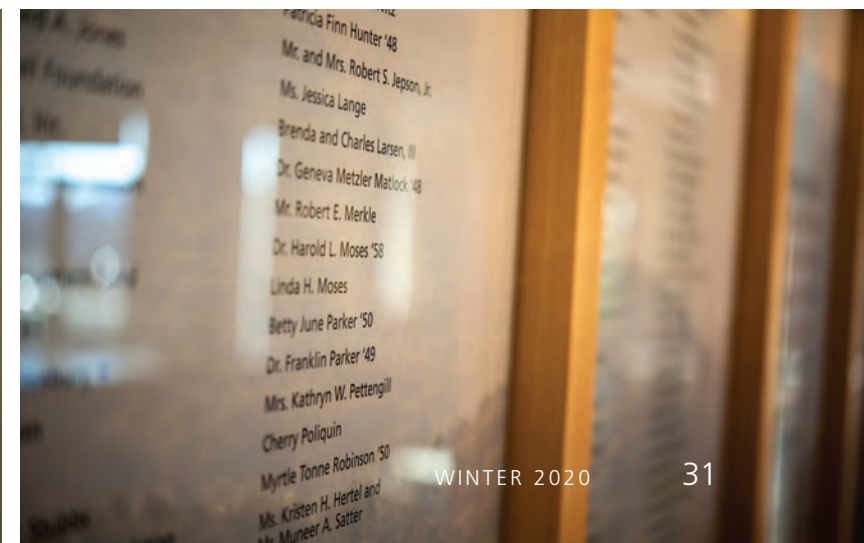
Feb. 19	TBA	at Transylvania University	Lexington, KY
March 7	11 am	at Brevard College	Brevard, NC
March 21	TBA	Piedmont College	Berea, KY
March 28	TBA	Covenant College	Berea, KY
March 29	11 am	Agnes Scott College	Berea, KY
March 31	TBA	Maryville College	Berea, KY
April 4	TBA	at LaGrange College	LaGrange, GA
April 5	1 pm	at Huntingdon	Montgomery, AL
April 11	TBA	Wesleyan College	Berea, KY
April 18	TBA	at Maryville College	Maryville, TN





# A Display of Gratitude

These words are prominently featured on Berea College's new donor recognition wall, located in the Alumni Building across from Baird Lounge. This beautiful new piece, installed in November 2019, is a thank you to the incredible supporters who make the Berea mission possible. The wall features the names of lifetime giving society donors, including those in the John G. Fee, Carter G. Woodson, Matilda Fee, Loyal Jones and Julia Britton Hooks societies, as well as those donors recognized as part of our annual giving clubs: the 1855 Club, Second Century Club and Mountaineer Club. Also featured are the special individuals who have hit milestone anniversary years as members of the Elizabeth Culbreth Society, Berea's recognition society for loyal donors of five consecutive years or more. We hope you will stop by if you are on campus and reflect on this new way of showing appreciation for the alumni and friends who invest in lives of great promise.





## Professor Birner Receives Faculty Enhancement Award from Oak Ridge Associated Universities

Dr. Suzanne Birner, assistant professor at Berea College, was awarded the Ralph Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement award from Oak Ridge Associated Universities. Birner competed with 167 applicants, many from R1 institutions (doctoral universities with the highest level of research activity). The \$5,000 grant award is matched by each applicant's institution.

Birner, who teaches geology, earth science and chemistry, plans to further her research with the grant, as well as recruit one to three students to accompany her in research this summer. She intends to use the grant to purchase equipment and technology to better develop analyses completed at Berea.



## NAACP Honors Berea College

The Richmond–Madison County (Ky.) branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) honored Berea College at the recent Freedom Fund Banquet.

The NAACP recognized the College because it was the first interracial and co-educational college in the South and for its inclusive Christian character expressed in its motto, "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth."

The 2019 honorees included six individuals or couples, one organization and one institution. Among them were Otha and Pauline Chenault; Frank Parks; Leora Hocker;

Joretta Hill; Elizabeth Denny and Donald Fields; Open Concern, an outreach ministry of First Christian Church; and Berea College.

Sharyn Mitchell '69, a research specialist in the Berea College archives, accepted the award on behalf of the College. In her remarks, Mitchell noted parallels between missions of Berea College and the NAACP. She also pointed out that one of the charter members of the NAACP, Julia Amanda Britton Hooks, was an early Berea College graduate, faculty member at Berea and the grandmother of Benjamin Hooks, a Civil Rights leader who served as the NAACP executive director from 1977 to 1992.



## Berea College Recognized for Outstanding Service to Environmental Education

Berea College was recognized by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) with the 2019 Outstanding Service to Environmental Education by an Organization award for incorporating environmental education into its sustainability initiatives.

Berea College has sustainably managed 9,000 acres of forestland for more than 100 years and started the Berea College Forestry Outreach Center to bring the community together to learn about the natural world. The College also operates the Berea College Farm Store, which uses produce from Berea's farm

## Berea College Ranked No. 1 "Best Value College" by The Wall Street Journal/THE



Berea College tops the list of "Best Value Colleges" in the nation in The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education (THE) 2020 College Rankings. Looking at the top 250 schools overall, the rankings calculated which schools provide the best value by dividing each school's overall score by its average net price according to data from the U.S. Department of Education. The average net price is the total cost of attending a school—including tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, and other costs—minus federal or institutional financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid. Students who don't receive any aid aren't included in the calculation.

Berea's no-tuition model contributed to its No. 1 best-value ranking. The College ranked No. 155 overall.

"We are thrilled to be ranked at the top of this impressive list of colleges and universities and are proud to be leading a cohort of schools that are committed to the important American ideal of social mobility through educational opportunity," said Berea College President Lyle Roelofs. "Our no-tuition policy allows us to provide talented students, who might not otherwise be able to afford access, a high-quality liberal arts education and transformative experiences, and it enables them to graduate with little or no debt."

and local farmers to feed the community and stock its dining hall.

## Berea College Science Building Awarded LEED Gold and FSC Certifications

The Margaret A. Cargill Natural Sciences and Health Building (MAC) has been awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification and full project certification by the Forest Stewardship Council.

The LEED rating system was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to assess and recognize buildings, homes and communities that are designed, constructed, maintained and operated for improved environmental and human-health performance. The Forest Stewardship Council, which promotes environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically prosperous management of forests worldwide, certified the full project.

Berea College achieved LEED certification for implementing practical and measurable strategies and solutions aimed at achieving high performance in sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

The College also received the Forest Stewardship Council's Full Project Certification for the MAC building, which requires a full audit of all wood products used in construction and verified to have been sourced with ecological responsibility.

## Berea Recognized 80 Graduates During Mid-Year Ceremony

In December, Berea College's Recognition Ceremony for Mid-Year Graduates celebrated 80 seniors who completed their degree requirements at the end of the fall term. The graduates represented 14 American states and 10 other countries. Jim Branscome '68, retired managing director for investment analysis of Standard & Poor's (S&P), served as guest speaker.

Branscome graduated from Berea College with a degree in history and political science before embarking on a successful 37-year career. In 2018, Berea College presented him with the Distinguished Alumni award.

A native of Carroll County, Va., and the first in his family to graduate from both high

school and college, Branscome's career includes serving as the regional coordinator for Stanford University Center for Research and Development in Teaching; co-chairing the Poverty Task Force for the White House Conference on Youth; working as a correspondent for *McGraw-Hill* and the *Washington Post*, primarily covering Appalachia and earning acclaim as an investigative reporter. Later, Branscome became editor-in-chief of *McGraw-Hill News*, where he supervised 60 editors and reporters in seven cities worldwide and oversaw editorial operations of S&P's news service. His 1971 *New York Times* magazine cover story on coal strip mining in Appalachia helped lead to federal regulations in 1972.



## What's Hot on Social

**f** Reach: 61.6K, Engagement: 5.9K



CNN recently examined how the college admissions process in America became so broken. In contrast, Berea College was highlighted as an alternate model for access and affordability to quality higher education, especially for those who can least afford it.

**t** Impressions: 5,638



When students couldn't afford to pay tuition, Berea College eliminated it.

In 1920, its board of trustees ruled any unrestricted money given to the school would be invested in an endowment to grow over time.

The endowment is now worth about \$1.2 billion.



**i** Reach: 3,493



Congratulations to your 2019 Berea College Homecoming Queen, Glendy Pineda and King, Noé Guevara! #bereahc19

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Dr. Jim Gaines '56: A Picture-Perfect Career

By Jason Lee Miller

In a laboratory at Washington University in St. Louis, graduate student Jim Gaines '56 needed a way to observe a quantum liquid—helium 3—beneath seven layers of stainless steel. He was able to do so through magnetic resonance, and thus Gaines produced the first image ever recorded through magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), now a standard process in the health-care industry.

Dr. Gaines didn't think much of the three-inch image at the time. "I thought it was cute," he said of the picture that was produced. "My advisor did, too. Neither of us could imagine that it had any practical importance."

To take a magnetic field from three inches to human size, said Gaines, would take technology far more advanced than what he was using. "The amount of computing power it took didn't exist, and I couldn't imagine it would ever get that much better."

Gaines is this year's recipient of the Berea College Distinguished Alumnus award that celebrates a lifetime of scientific advancement and achievement that began with what turned out to be an historic scientific milestone in nuclear magnetic resonance. Gaines continued his research via the Ohio State University (OSU), where he received the coveted Sloan Research Fellowship that enabled him to study under world-renowned nuclear physicist Anatole Abragam at Saclay in Paris, a hub for nuclear research.

Gaines has a storied history in Berea, dating back to boyhood before World War II. His father, Roland Gaines, had made a name for himself in the "hillbilly music business" in and around Berea, including nearby country-music hot spot Renfro Valley. Though he lived in Cincinnati and later St. Louis, Jim sang with his father on stage as a boy and spent his summers with his grandparents and relatives at homes near campus. He picked blackberries off Forest Street, frequented nearby shops and worked for his uncle, Jim, at Jim's Place, a campus restaurant.

"The townspeople at the shops and stores knew me," Gaines said. "They could report my activities to my grandfather, who was sort of the majordomo of the family."

At 16, Gaines came to Berea College and

majoring in physics. He worked in the Boone Tavern garage, scraped trays in dining services, provided janitorial services in the chemistry lab and served as a teaching assistant for physics professor Tom Strickler, who set Gaines on a path toward graduate school.

"It was something I didn't really want to hear," Gaines said, "but Professor Strickler convinced me." The most persuasive argument for continuing his education was the prospect of being his own boss. "I had enough of an independent streak that those were the words I needed to hear."

Thus began a long and illustrious career in physics. During his tenure at Ohio State, Gaines also served as a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Linköping University in Sweden, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. Before accepting a professorship at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, he was chair of the User Committee at MIT's National Magnet Lab and director of the National Science Foundation Materials Science Lab at OSU.

In Hawaii, he focused on materials science and the hydrogen isotope tritium, securing funding from the National Science Foundation, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and NASA. He retired from the University of Hawaii as the vice president for research. Currently, Gaines serves as emeritus professor of Physics at both OSU and the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Gaines has published more than 170 refereed journal articles on physics and materials science and has held several pioneering leadership positions. He was the first director of the



Jennifer Lance '20

National Science Foundation Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR); director of materials science at KMS Fusion; the first director of the Applied Physics Lab, the Navy's University Affiliated Research Center in Hawaii; and the first director of the Department of Homeland Security Center for Maritime Awareness. In addition, he is one of the three founders of Lake Shore Cryogenics.

Dr. Gaines met his wife, Jo An Howard '57, at Berea. They dated for a time and went their separate ways for 40 years. They married in 1995 and make their home in Los Angeles.

## RODNEY C. BUSSEY AWARD OF SPECIAL MERIT

Sharyn Richards Mitchell FD '65, BC '69: Making Connections

By Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03

Through her natural curiosity, love of research and making connections, Sharyn Mitchell has helped innumerable people, campus departments, alumni families and community members track down fascinating information that they could not have gotten anywhere else. Mitchell has served as a research services specialist in Hutchins Library Special Collections and Archives for eight years. In that time, she has become intimately familiar with Berea's deep archives, the rich stories of Berea's founders and their families, and the unique history of the people and places of Madison County, Ky.

Mitchell is this year's recipient of the Rodney C. Bussey Award of Special Merit, given to alumni who have been employed by the College, recognizing them for their outstanding service, demonstrated loyal interest and extraordinary quality of work to the Berea College family.

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. Her research journeys usually start with someone asking a question. Maybe it's a stranger walking into the library looking for information on her great grandmother who she believes attended Berea College in the late 1800s, or an entrepreneur trying to connect his lost family history to a Berea College alumnus in order to obtain funding to refurbish dilapidated housing in Louisville's west end. There is no limit to the interesting leads Mitchell receives that drive the research in which she engages each day.

"You let them talk," Mitchell said about the initial process of gathering information to start a new research path. "Basically if someone says where they are from, I just start asking questions like I was interviewing someone. Most of the time, you can take off from what they tell you. If they say, 'My grandmother was a teacher,' there's a good chance she went to the Normal School.

"I tell the students here, when we are

interviewing, I could have been a private investigator," Mitchell continued, laughing. "You take one lead and you follow it back."

In 2011, Mitchell took her love of investigating a step further and started 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 to share findings, make research connections and enjoy 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 white people will say, 'I am ashamed that my family had slaves.' I reply, 'But 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.'"

Recently, Mitchell began working with a group in Boonesborough, Ky., to add the names of African Americans to a large monument the town had constructed listing the names of early settlers to the area.

"The names read just like our families, yet they said, 'We don't know the names of any black families,'" Mitchell said of her conversation about the monument's missing history.

"It takes a lot to learn what we have here and I learn every day," Mitchell added. "You need to learn something new every day—even if it is not related to your job. I have a love of learning, and I'm naturally nosy. But you have to listen. I can make connections, just by asking the right questions."

For more on Sharyn Mitchell and her journey to and from Berea, and back again, read her profile, "Putting Meat on the Bones," at <https://bit.ly/2028bw0>



Jennifer Lance '20

# HOMECOMING 2019

Homecoming 2019 brought more alumni back to Berea than ever before. The campus community welcomed home nearly 1,000 alumni and guests with more than 60 receptions, performances and activities. Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2020, scheduled November 20-22.



Tyler Rocquemore '22



Jada Petrus '20



Jada Petrus '20



Tyler Rocquemore '22

**ABOVE:** Emmanuel Stokes '08, assistant professor of music at Berea College, directs the Black Music Ensemble during its annual concert in Union Church. **RIGHT:** Theatre alumni and their guests gather on the steps of the Jelkyl Drama Center during the department's first BATBQ. The name pays homage to the theater's "mascot," the bat, which is the nickname of the old BC theatre—the Tab—spelled backwards.

Rodney Kimbangu '20 chats with Daryl Mangosing '14 at the Center for International Education Homecoming Reception in Woods-Penn Commons.

DJ Jady Sol (Jordan Sims '15) kept Bereans dancing under the stars during the annual Block Party on the Square behind Boone Tavern to kick-off the weekend.



Michael Johnson '20



Crystal Wylie '05

Ilona Perler-Tomboly '23 plays the fiddle at the Folk Roots Ensemble Homecoming Gathering and Concert at the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center.

Keith Bullock, Hon. '17, coordinator of the Black Male Initiative, makes his own sweet masterpiece at the 5th annual Caramel Apple Bar hosted by Alumni Relations each year to kick-off Spirit Week.



Crystal Wylie '05

Sam San '94 plays "Berea Beloved" on the "hand flute" for his class reception in Boone Tavern's Lincoln Lounge. Watch the video of his performance on the Berea College Alumni Facebook page: <http://ow.ly/sqEi30pYJdf>



Jihan Muhammad '20

Contestants line the stage at the 49th annual Black Student Union Pageant in Phelps Stokes Chapel. **LEFT TO RIGHT:** Godwin Emeka-Ibe '23, prince; Sabrina Acheampong '23, princess; A'ja Armstrong '23; Janae Garner '23, queen; Josahn Oginga '22, king; and Erika Arvizu '23.



Homecoming 2019 Court: **FRONT ROW, L-R:** Hattie Killin '22, Queen Bearer Maizy Dunaway, King Bearer Liam Arthur and Kingsley Basoah '22 (second runner-up). **SECOND ROW, L-R:** Juan Chavez Casiano '20 (first runner-up), Tania Neal '20, Brittany Ortiz-Perez '20 (first runner-up), 2018 Queen Maya Riddles '20, 2019 Queen Glendy Pineda '19, Marie-Chantal Nizigiyimana '20, Briana Lanham '20 (second runner-up) and Maiesha Simmons '20. **THIRD ROW, L-R:** Natasha Perez '22, CJay Caldwell '21, Jacob McCowan '21, 2018 King Benhardt Christon '19, First Lady Laurie Roelofs, President Lyle Roelofs, 2019 King Noé Guevara '21, Issac Peters '22, Godwin Emeka-Ibe '23 and Ryan Mowbray '22.

Ray Davis '11



Tyler Rocquemore '22

The Alumni Executive Council hosted its first Dialogue on Race and Education about what "authentic inclusion" looks like at Berea. Dr. Linda Strong-Leek, provost and vice president for diversity and inclusion, facilitated the discussion with panelists Dr. Jakeya Caruthers, assistant professor and department chair of African and African American Studies, and Dr. Jessica Klanderud, director of the Carter G. Woodson Center and assistant professor of African and African American History.



Lucy Santiago '21

Women's basketball head coach Trent Milby huddles up with his team during their game against Campbellsville-Harrodsburg. The Lady Mountaineers won 96-59.



Photos by Jalen Prater '20

**FIRST ROW L-R:** Kristi Kincaid Adkins, Janet White, Jennifer Graham Goodin (in photo), Lori Atkins Eaton, Mary Baldrige, Tim Lawson and Celita Sexton-Eden. **SECOND ROW L-R:** Alicia Dooley Swanson and Jennifer Kaylor Osborn. **THIRD ROW L-R:** Roger Hawkins, Debra Davis Morgan, Jeremy Heidt, Nikiasha McDuffie Neil and Cherith Chapman Flowerday. **FOURTH ROW L-R:** Michael Nick, Connie Bain Tracy, Cathy Pribonic Harris and Camila Simmonds Bear. **FIFTH ROW L-R:** Patricia Hankins Nick, Georgia Osborne Bowers and Vicky Welch. **SIXTH ROW L-R:** Jon Edwards Tracy and Cheryl Gibson. **SEVENTH ROW L-R:** Timothy "Biggun" Jones, Samuel San, John Bowers, Charles "Chuck" Morgan.



**FIRST ROW L-R:** Reneen Mincy, Amber Richardson Detty, Angela Newton Hunt, Gregory "Greg" Begin, Naomi Carrick Sellards and Sarah Shannon Kindler. **SECOND ROW L-R:** Angel Todd, Johanna Startzman Wray, Abigail Ridge Derringer, Elizabeth Marie Bakkar Yount, Janelle MacLeod, Jennifer Rodrian Greer and Niyetta Williams Hill. **THIRD ROW L-R:** Leah Johnson Thompson, Jennifer Shell Shepherd, Angela Utley McAmis, Lowell Sellards, Heather Barton Evans and Huy Nguyen. **FOURTH ROW L-R:** Lara Valleyly, CaraLee Richardson Blair, Leslie Kovach Buchanan, Julie Stewart, Nathaniel Green (on phone) and Amanda Richie. **FIFTH ROW L-R:** Crystal Wylie, Dwight Overstreet, Kara Russell Crispin, Karis Sophia Russell and Grace Brutto. **SIXTH ROW L-R:** James "J.D." Hefferman, Rebecca Wheat, Baron Wolf, Royce Dansby-Sparks and Curtis Hance.



**FIRST ROW L-R:** Sarah Hagans, Michelle Shupe Williams, Dawn Waters-King, Heather McNew Schill, Adina Chapman and Christina Likirdopulos. **SECOND ROW L-R:** Chasity Hornsby Shahi, Lavanya Wiseraime Peter, Ladali Wiseraime Wijeratne, Smitha Jetti, Amy Burkhardt Harmon and Marisa FitzGerald Aull. **THIRD ROW L-R:** Jonathan L. Johnson, Andrea Jackson, Kenya Arrington Woods and Christopher Byers.



**FIRST ROW L-R:** Amanda Lucas, CeDarian Crawford, Rebecca Tucker, Ken Johnson and J. Anthony Holbert. **SECOND ROW L-R:** Jolene Bennett, Christian Motley, Aaron Crawford, Kisha Fitchard and Beth Bissmeyer. **THIRD ROW L-R:** Anita Beth Coleman, Heather Romines, Roxanne Bolen, Danielle Pelenkahu and Anna Singleton Rose. **FOURTH ROW L-R:** Jennifer Long Hodges, Bradley Wood, Ashton Wood, Natalee Barnes Kreimer, Evan Bolster, Erin Nimmo and Thaddieous McCall. **FIFTH ROW L-R:** Matthew Williams, Jessica Williams, Amanda Frith, Debra Bulluck, Fletcher Bell, Letisha Hermanes McCall and Genesis Bangha.



**FIRST ROW L-R:** Mira Denton, Danielle Schaper, Suzanne Dazo, Danielle Owens and Kate Newville-Kinkel. **SECOND ROW L-R:** Betsy Crabtree, Sophia Fields, Rachel Burnside, Christina Meadows and Johanna Hall-Rappolee. **THIRD ROW L-R:** Kendahl Seith Moore, Emily Applegate and Samantha Leslie. **FOURTH ROW L-R:** Jessica Foshenner, Houda Moutki, Blayne Cohran, Daryl Mangosing, Cheyenne McGraw and Victoria Bauer. **FIFTH ROW L-R:** Jenna Brooks, Daniel Pardue, Liesel Norris Pardue, Duncan Blount, Samuel Tincher and Lesa Gambill.



**FIRST ROW L-R:** Xhafer Rama, Ominica Crockett, Yabsira Ayele and Alejandro Galeaha. **SECOND ROW L-R:** Heather Bader, Katie Ackerman, Kaylie Padgett, Dani Graves and Svertlana Patterson. **THIRD ROW L-R:** Kaitlin Morris, Kenna Morris, Kristina Anderson and Alondra Barrera Garcia. **FOURTH ROW L-R:** Gyanu Karki, Jedidiah Radosevich, Benhardt Christson, Adara Scott and Rebecca Sizemore. **FIFTH ROW L-R:** Puspa Kafley, Trey Collins and Lakshya Bharadwai.

# 2020 Summer Reunion Registration June 12-14

IT WILL BE A SPECIAL REUNION YEAR FOR THE CLASSES OF **1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, and 1980 through 1990**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first, birth and last as you would like for it to appear on your name tag)

Class Year(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest Class Year(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(first, birth and last as you would like for it to appear on your name tag) (if applicable)

Spouse/Guest Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Friday, June 12

- **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 (Early bird tickets are \$20 each. After May 1: \$25)

### Saturday, June 13

- **50th Reunion Breakfast for the Class of 1970 - 8 a.m.** | President's Home  
Hosted by Pres. Lyle Roelofs and First Lady Laurie Roelofs.  
\_\_\_\_\_ # attending (No Charge - limited to you and one guest)
- **Alumni Awards Presentation & Reception - 10 a.m.** | Boone Tavern Event Ctr.  
Celebrating two Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients:  
Leslie Parker Borhaug '90 and Tore Borhaug '90  
\_\_\_\_\_ # attending (No Charge)
- **Class Luncheon - 12:30 p.m.** | Boone Tavern  
\_\_\_\_\_ # attending (Early bird tickets are \$20 each. After May 1: \$25)
- **Sweetheart Reception - 3 p.m.** | Fireside Room, Draper  
Share your Berea love stories & have some wedding cupcakes.  
\_\_\_\_\_ # attending (No Charge)
- **Alumni Reception - 5 p.m.** | Boone Tavern  
Mingling, drinks and hors d'oeuvres with your classmates  
\_\_\_\_\_ # attending (Early bird tickets are \$10 each. After May 1: \$15)
- **Party of the Decade - 8-11 p.m.** | The Garden behind Boone Tavern  
Celebrating all classes from 1980 through 1990, but everyone is welcome!  
\_\_\_\_\_ # attending (Early bird tickets are \$10 each. After May 1: \$15)

### SR20 T-shirt

Especially designed to commemorate your reunion. Pre-order yours today — there will be a very limited supply available during reunion weekend. **\$15 each**

\_\_\_\_\_ # SM \_\_\_\_\_ # MD \_\_\_\_\_ # LG \_\_\_\_\_ # XL  
 \_\_\_\_\_ # 2XL \_\_\_\_\_ # 3XL \_\_\_\_\_ # 4XL

Optional - If you plan to attend, please leave a question you would like answered during the Town Hall Forum with Pres. Lyle Roelofs (or email it to [alumnirelations@bereda.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@bereda.edu)): \_\_\_\_\_

### Make checks payable to "Berea College"

Gift to Berea Fund (Optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ticket Total + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Amount = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

### HOW TO REGISTER

Online: [www.bereda.edu/alumni/sr20](http://www.bereda.edu/alumni/sr20)  
 Phone: 866-804-0591 (toll free)  
 Mail: Berea College Alumni Relations  
 CPO 2203, Berea, Ky 40404

The Berea College Alumni Association enjoys hearing from Bereans from all over the world. The "Class Notes" section of *Berea College* magazine reports verifiable news you wish to share with your alumni friends and associates: careers, weddings, retirements, births, and other items of importance to our alumni. Please include your class year and name used while attending Berea. Notes may be edited for style and length. While we will make every effort to put your information into the next issue of BCM, some delays may occur. We appreciate your understanding.

Submit class notes and photographs at [www.berea.edu/alumni/classnote](http://www.berea.edu/alumni/classnote)

### 1949

**Franklin Parker and Betty J. Parker '50**, both in their 90s, spoke to children at a summer camp in July 2019 about their adventures more than 60 years ago, when Franklin was a Kappa Delta Pi fellow studying education in southern Africa. The children enjoyed handling wooden African carvings of antelopes and a lion.

### 1951

**Claude Raymond Beverly** has been a widower for two years, having lost his wife **Annabelle Phipps Beverly '52** to Parkinsonism. He worked 42 years as a physicist in the nuclear industry at Oak Ridge and Paducah. Raymond is still living at home in Paducah with reasonable health. He returned to Berea for the dedication of the Margaret A. Cargill Natural Sciences & Health Building in October 2018 and relished seeing the Grizzlies (**Jim '51** and **Barbara Huntsman Grizzle '52**) and the Mattinglys (**Steele '50** and **Betty Dimmick Mattingly '51**). If any others from his class were there, he regrets missing them. Raymond still travels alone and hopes to go back to Yellowstone and Grand Tetons one day. He would like to hear from any of his few remaining friends from the Berea years at the following address: 390 Rhea Lee Dr., Paducah, KY 42001.

### 1954

**Jessie Reasor Zander** celebrated her 87th birthday with a gathering in Tucson, AZ, which included Berea connections, **Margaret Martini Mishra '75**, former faculty member Dr. Gene Chao and his wife Dorothy. That was followed up on Labor Day with a luncheon and a viewing of the movie "The Green Book." Jessie shared stories of her and her husband traveling from Virginia to Arizona in the late 50s. They were not able to rent a hotel, so instead they slept under a street light at a gas station. Later, she thrilled the group with her poetry and is in the process of compiling a book of her poetry.



### 1956

**Tommy Clark** and his wife, Dorothy, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary by taking a cruise to Antarctica in January 2019. When Tom retired, he picked up his Berea Pep Band trombone again, and he still plays in two bands at the local senior center. He and Dorothy have traveled to more than 70 countries and all seven continents during their 23 years of retirement. Currently, they live in Charlottesville, VA.

### 1957

**Peter Whitis** and **Martha Noss Whitis** celebrated their 66th anniversary May 30, 2019. They just completed a memoir, "This Improbable Life." Email [prw3131@icloud.com](mailto:prw3131@icloud.com) to purchase a book. Peter is a retired, board-certified psychiatrist who lives in Eau Claire, WI. His book, "Beyond Running: The Road as Mentor," is available on Amazon.



### 1960

**Dr. Robert N. "Bob" Compton** was recognized as the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Tennessee during the department's annual Honors Day ceremony in May. He received this highest honor, "for his seminal contributions to atomic and molecular physics, and especially his pioneering studies of non-linear laser spectroscopy, multi-photon ionization, and multiply-charged negative ions." Read more: <http://ow.ly/Q0vC30pNxp>



UT Physics professor and department Head, Dr. Hanno Weitering, left, presents Dr. Robert Compton with the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

### 1961

**Madge Maupin Haney** and **Phil Haney** are both retired teachers still living in Ashland, KY. They have four children, 10 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Madge and Phil were married June 4, 1961 in Danforth Chapel.

**Sylvia "Minnie" Messer Shepherd** moved into an apartment in Roanoke, VA after selling her home. Her new address is: 420 Bluebell Ln. Apt. 205, Roanoke, VA 24012.

### 1963

**Charles N. Fiske** relocated from Palm Coast, FL to Berea, KY in June 2015.

### 1964

**Gerry Yeatts Scardo** continues to do environmental activist work and is employed as a social worker. She plans to retire for the fourth time to do volunteer work in the health field.

### 1965

**Susan Giffin** lives in Florida and is co-author with an award-winning Cuban American author. To date they have published 11 novels in a variety of genres. See their posts on Facebook by searching @writedoctors. Susan said, "Although I graduated a long time ago, I still cherish the wonderful, happy memories of those days, and I will always enjoy sharing information about Berea College whenever the opportunity presents itself."

### 1966

**Prince Altee Thomas** received the Pennsylvania Bar Association's A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award during the 30th PBA Minority Attorney Conference in Philadelphia. The event theme was "Communities under Attack and Leadership Going Forward." The award recognizes the accomplishments of a lawyer or judge who has demonstrated dedication to the legal profession and the minority community through civil, community or legal service. Read more: <http://ow.ly/PHXT30pNUnl>



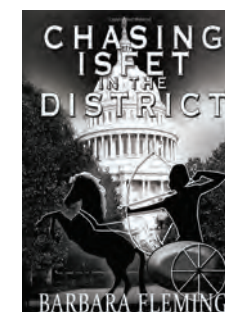
### 1967

**Dr. Rebecca Smith Mann** moved to Chapel Hill, NC from Asheville. She now lives near her daughter, Dr. Monica Wrobel, who practices psychological counseling. Rebecca retired in 2005 from Guilford Technical Community College as an English professor, but she taught English part-time for six years after that. She enjoys spending time with her two granddaughters, her son-in-law and her daughter, who live in Durham, NC. You may call her at (336) 239-4110.



### 1968

**Barbara Fleming** has released two new books in her Matthew Alexander mystery series. All five publications are available on Amazon.



### 1969

**Joyce Spears Beets** said it was wonderful to renew friendships at Summer Reunion 2019. She also said this 50th reunion was special since it was the first she had attended, but hopefully not the last.

### 1970

**Edward Smith** is a retired historian and archivist who published his second book on student activism at Berea College during the late 60s. The book is titled "Black Power Comes to Appalachia: Bereans Create the Black Appalachian Commission, A Documentary History, 1969-1970." The foreword is written by his wife, **Claudette Schmidt Smith '72**. The book documents the student-led movement to create a commission within the Council of the Southern Mountains to address the needs of overlooked black communities in Appalachia. The 214-page book has more than 140 pages of documents and photographs and is \$18. It can be purchased on Amazon, or by emailing [smithed9@aol.com](mailto:smithed9@aol.com). It can also be purchased by mail to his home at: 5601 Joyce Place, Bladensburg, MD 20710-1645.



### 1975

**Rose Weaver** was featured in an Aug. 30, 2019 *Oak Ridge Today* article about the kick-off meeting for the Women's Interfaith Dialogue of Oak Ridge. She is an active member of the Oak Ridge community, a poet and a historian. She is researching the history of desegregation of the area and the people who have had the greatest impacts in shaping Oak Ridge. Rose serves as Christian education director and superintendent of Spurgeon Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church Sunday School. Read more: [oakridgetoday.com/tag/rose-weaver](http://oakridgetoday.com/tag/rose-weaver).



### 1976

**Teresa Reed Thacker** retired in December 2018 after working 42 years, 39 of which were spent as a recovery room nurse. She is grateful to Berea College for her education, friendships and the place where she met her husband, **David Glen Thacker '73**.

### 1977

**Cathy Phillips Brinkley** is the office assistant to Susan Bro of the Heather Heyer Foundation. Heyer is the young woman who was killed in Charlottesville, VA by a white supremacist when he plowed his car into a crowd of counter protesters on Aug. 12, 2017, injuring at least 19 and killing Heyer. The foundation gives scholarships in her name to those who want to work in social justice fields. Students must prove they are already active in this area. Learn more at [www.heatherheyerfoundation.com](http://www.heatherheyerfoundation.com).



Cathy (right) is pictured with Susan Bro, Heather Heyer's mother.

### 1978

**John Alexander** and **Susan McGuffin Alexander** retired from Grayson County Public Schools in June. They celebrated 49 years of being together in September. John and Susan said, "Broom craft students are the best!"

**Sharon J. Alexander** retired from St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington, WV, where she was director of nursing and worked for nearly 40 years.

### 1979

**Dr. Anthony C. Hackney** will be receiving an honorary doctorate later this year from the medical school of the University of Tartu in Estonia. The university is honoring his research contributions in the area of exercise endocrinology, his long-standing collaborations with the late Professor Atko Viru of Tartu and his nearly 30 years of engagement in teaching and research in the Baltic countries. The University of Tartu is the country's leading center of research and training, and is a member of the prestigious Coimbra Group of European universities.

**Pastor Donald Ray Napier** has three sons and five grandchildren. In his retirement, he pastors Ages Baptist Church, works at a homeless shelter three days a week and volunteers at Christ's Hands and the Red Cross. He would love to hear from friends: 1284 Hwy 38, Clovertown, KY 40831.

**Julia Weatherford** and **Frederick Park '93** were featured in a May 31, 2019 *Mountain Xpress* article, "A history of WNC's most enduring social dance traditions." The article chronicles the history of the weekly community dance tradition that dates back to the 1930s, once called the Farmer's Ball, held in a hall on Warren Wilson College Road. Frederick, who danced and studied Appalachian studies at Berea, revived the tradition when he moved to Swannanoa in 1981 and heard country and bluegrass music coming from the old hall. Julia, who is a musician, describes the ruggedness of the old hall in the article. Read more: <http://ow.ly/U4m230pNy6y>

**1981**

**Elaine Crull** retired in June from the Jackson County School System (GA) after 27 years as a public school speech/language pathologist (SLP). Starting in 1991, Elaine spent the first three years of her career as an SLP in Elbert County, GA. She spent the remainder of her career in service to the children and families of Jackson County, with the exception of one year spent at the Rochester Hearing & Speech Center in Rochester, NY. Elaine looks forward to traveling to new places.

**1982**

**James Ramsay** finished his Doctor of Ministry degree at Bakke Graduate University in June 2019. His focus was in migration and mission. The dissertation research he completed was looking at motivations into ministry among diaspora populations. James and his family live in Atlanta, GA where he serves as vice president for global operations for TMS Global, a mission mobilizing and sending organization.



**1983**

In 2019, **Dr. Danise Coar** retired after 27 years from Altria (parent company of Philip Morris USA, US Smokeless, etc.). She began as an entomologist investigating control methods for cigarette beetles in stored tobacco. Danise managed and led various biological and analytical chemistry groups throughout her career at Altria, retiring as senior principal scientist. Danise and her partner of 32 years, Dottie Clements, currently live in Doswell, VA.

**Jerry Carpenter** is celebrating eight years at the U.S. Geological Society. He is serving as a lead MS domain administrator and as an assistant curator at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (CA), teaching the art of bonsai and maintaining private collections. Follow his art on his blog: [www.artsofjc.com](http://www.artsofjc.com).



**1984**

**Paul Phnomphone Sirimongkhon** and his wife **Barbie Leggin Sirimongkhon '83** moved to Green Valley, AZ. They are enjoying a change of scenery, an active outdoor lifestyle and long mild winter months. In 2016, Paul decided to go back to school and graduated in May 2018, with a master's degree in digital storytelling/media communications from Asbury University (KY). Barbie formerly taught at the Bluegrass Community & Technical College as an assistant professor of development studies. Currently, she is working on building her adult health and skincare products business as an Arbonne International district manager.

**1986**

**Donna Sue Baker McClure** is now U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's senior field representative, serving the senator since 2005 in 24 eastern Kentucky counties.

**1991**

**Katherine Silver Kelly** was promoted from associate clinical professor of law to clinical professor of law at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Katherine has worked at OSU since 2012. She was awarded the College of Law's Morgan E. Shipman Outstanding Professor Award in 2016 and the University's Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2017.



**1993**

**Edward Brock** completed his degree in respiratory therapy in December 2018 and became a certified respiratory therapist in March 2019.

**Frederick Park** and **Julia Weatherford '79** were featured in a May 31, 2019 *Mountain Xpress* article, "A history of WNC's most enduring social dance traditions." The article chronicles the history of the weekly community dance tradition that dates back to the 1930s, once called the Farmer's Ball, held in a hall on Warren Wilson College Road. Frederick, who danced and studied Appalachian studies at Berea, revived the tradition when he moved to Swannanoa in 1981 and heard country and bluegrass music coming from the old hall. Julia, who is a musician, describes the ruggedness of the old hall in the article. Read more: <http://ow.ly/U4m230pNy6y>

**1994**

**Alan Hughes**, chair of psychology at Berry College, is one of 41 administrators in higher education nationwide selected to participate in the 2019-20 Senior Leadership Academy.

**1995**

**Mark Butler** was appointed director of the office of founded ministries for the Dominican Sisters of Peace, a religious congregation with administrative offices in Columbus, OH. The office assists ministry leaders in the areas of governance and Dominican Catholic identity. The congregation's sponsored ministries include primary and secondary schools, colleges/universities, health care centers, ecology centers, literacy and outreach centers, and retreat centers in nine states.

**1998**

**Charles Tillet**, his wife Alice and their son Micah worked as missionaries in Kenya from 1999 to 2014, and in New Mexico from 2016 to 2018. They've recently returned to Frankfort, KY, and joined Victory Tabernacle PCG church in Georgetown. Alice is teaching a Bible study on Monday nights at the church. Charles started doing ministry in the chapel at Blackburn Prison in January. To read more about their missionary work, read the entire class note online.



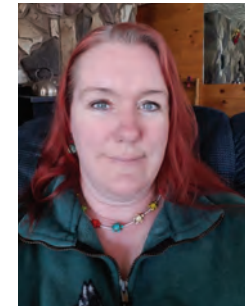
**1999**

**Amy Burkhardt Harmon** was promoted to director of planned giving at Berea College.



**2000**

**Leslie Miller Athman** began working for Cape Fox Facilities Services at Rocky Mountain Laboratories (a National Institutes of Health facility) in Hamilton, MT as a laboratory assistant in February 2018. She was awarded the Cape Fox Facilities Services Distinguished Achievement Award on May 30, 2019, after her first year of service.



**Jeremy Grant** was recently named the theatre director at Madison Southern High School in Berea.

**Katrina Suzanna Thacker, Ph.D.**, has been elected for the past two years to the resident advisory board in conjunction with Housing for Urban Development for the Myers Towers Building in Pikeville, KY. She also was selected as an alternate Democrat election worker for the general election in November 2019. Katrina is a member of the Democrat National Committee and a poet in the Pikeville Poetry Organization.

**2003**

**Luke Sulfridge**, executive director of the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council, was recognized by Midwest Energy News Network as a 40 under 40 champion. The program highlights emerging leaders throughout the region and their work in transitioning to a clean energy economy. <https://energynews.us/2019-40under40/>



**2004**

**Heather Kristen Evans** joined the faculty at the University of Virginia's College at Wise this past fall as the John Morton Beaty Endowed Chair in Political Science. She resides in Abingdon, VA with her husband, Patrick, and their two children.



**2005**

**Rishara Finsel** was chosen as the new director of the Transylvania County Library (NC) in July 2019. Prior to her new job, she worked as the director of the Polk County Public Library and was the senior librarian for public services at the Flathead County Library System in western Montana.

**Justin Kindler**

graduated from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis with a certificate in endodontics and master's degree in dentistry in June 2019. Later that month, he and his wife, **Sarah Shannon Kindler '04**, relocated to Lexington along with their two daughters, Chloe and Caroline. Justin started working as an endodontist, or a root canal specialist, at Central Kentucky Endodontics in Beaumont Center in late July. The couple is expecting their third child, a boy, in or around February.



**BIRTH:** a daughter, Luna Maria Rivera, to **Missy Naseman Rivera** and Javier Rivera on July 26, 2019. The family resides in Sidney, OH.



**2007**

**Kay Barnett** resides in her hometown of London, KY, where she is employed as the community education and public information officer for Laurel County Public Schools. Kay is finishing her term as president of the London Rotary Club, serves as a board member with Court Appointed Special Advocate of Knox-Laurel Counties and God's Pantry Food Bank Southeast Region Distribution Facility. Kay was selected this spring as a recipient of Laurel County's 10 Under 40 Award, which recognizes the accomplishments and commitment to make Laurel County, KY, a better place to live, work and play.

**BIRTH:** a son, Samuel Christopher Ball, to **Sara Eileen Rhatican Ball** and Ted Ball on August 20, 2019.



**Robert E. Haynes** was promoted to major in the U.S. Army on Aug. 1, 2019. He is pictured with his wife **Megan Henry Haynes '07**, and children Caleb, Christian and Elijah.



CLASS NOTES

**Dr. Demetrius A. Russell, Sr.** earned a Master of Divinity degree in 2013 from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2018 from Luther Rice Seminary.



2009

**Alix E. Heintzman's** debut novel, "The Ten Thousand Doors of January," was published in September 2019 by Orbit/Redhook Books under the pen name Alix E. Harrow. In August, she became the youngest woman to win a Hugo Award in a prose category (best short story) for her short story, "A Witch's Guide to Escape: A Practical Compendium of Portal Fantasies," which was published in the February 2018 issue of *Apex Magazine*. This year, she was also a finalist for the Nebula, Locus and World Fantasy Awards in the short fiction categories. She lives in Berea with her husband and their two children and is a faculty member at Eastern Kentucky University. Read her award-winning story online at: <http://ow.ly/80t030pNVzD>



2010

**MARRIED: Shannon Nicole Brookman** to Matthew Kiggen on July 12, 2019. The couple happily resides in Asheville, NC.



**Akilah Hughes** was featured in a Sept. 23, 2019 *Chicago Sun-Times* article about her new book, "Obviously: Stories from My Timeline," a collection of essays that chart her journey from a small suburb in Kentucky to a media career in New York, spanning from a popular YouTube channel to appearances on HBO's "Pod Save America." Read more: <http://ow.ly/vxnK30pNVcZ>

**Brittany Smith** was featured in a July 19, 2019 *The Advocate Messenger* article about her appointment as the new young adult services librarian at the Boyle County Public Library. She will be tasked with reaching and serving local teens by increasing teen activities, such as a Dungeons and Dragons Club and by growing the young-adult collection. Read more: <http://ow.ly/2CQV30pNVmC>

2012

**Linsey K. Hogg** earned a juris doctorate degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law in May 2018. She was elected to the college's Order of the Coif and served as an editorial board member on the *Kentucky Law Journal*. She passed the Kentucky Bar exam in July 2018 and was admitted to the practice of law on Oct. 22, 2018. She currently serves as Fayette Circuit Court Judge Ernesto Scorson's staff attorney. Linsey's additional legal experience includes serving as the real-time editor, digital consultant and research assistant for the U.S. Sixth Circuit Committee on Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions. Linsey also has served as UK Law professor Sarah N. Welling's research assistant.



2014

**Sam Gleaves** was featured at the 47th National Storytelling Festival as an Exchange Place Teller. A tradition since 1973, the festival hosts the nation's top storytellers and draws 11,000 people to celebrate the ancient art of storytelling in Jonesborough, Tennessee's oldest town. Read more: <http://ow.ly/KkYX30pNVSO>

2016

**Matt Parsons** was featured in a Sept. 25, 2019 *Grayson Journal-Enquirer* article about his storytelling set, "The Parsons Cowboy Suite," that he performed at the Olive Hill Center for Arts and Education as part of the venue's Trail Town Stage series with his father and brother. The set, written by Matt, is partly based on a man he met while still in school at Berea—Dale from Texas—and partly inspired by the western movies he and his brother watched growing up. Read more: <http://ow.ly/zXmR30pNW3m>

2018

**Emily Chen-Newton**, a host/producer at KIOS—Omaha Public Radio, teamed up with Dawaune Lamont Hayes of NOISE (North Omaha Information Support Everyone) to talk with the producing artistic directors of The Great Plains Theatre Conference and The Union for Contemporary Art about using theatre as a means of healing and racial reconciliation in the July 17, 2019 piece "Theatre Bringing Reconciliation in Omaha" (listen here: <http://ow.ly/mfAk30pNeXs>). Emily also is working on KIOS podcast "Made in the Middle," which combines science and culture into an hour-long conversation in which she takes a trip through the history of the American Heartland to uncover how it's made our country what it is. Learn more: [www.kios.org/programs/made-middle](http://www.kios.org/programs/made-middle)

2019

**Loren E. Weber** recently accepted the American India Foundation Clinton Fellowship. The fellowship is a 10-month commitment, which began in September 2019. Loren will work in her placement community as an organic and sustainable gardener and educator.

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	65	5.1%
	75	6.2%
	80+	7.3-9.2%
	90+	9.5%

*Effective July 1, 2018.*



**Shaylan C. '20**  
Major: **Communication**  
Minor: **Broadcast Journalism**

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**1990s**

Dallan Dean Leishman '90  
May 19, 2019

Marsha Grant Nash '90  
Sept. 2, 2019

Angela Lee Collett Feltner '93  
April 16, 2019

Joy Rene Johnson '93  
Feb. 15, 2019

Jennifer Graham Goodin '94  
July 31, 2019

**2000s**  
Dominique Davenport '07  
Aug. 5, 2019

**2020s**

Landon Howard Bond '20  
Sept. 22, 2019

Read full obituaries on our website at  
[https:// magazine.berea.edu](https://magazine.berea.edu)



**Zero Waste Takes Almost Zero Effort**

This year, the Alumni Relations Office in partnership with Facilities Recycling and the Office of Sustainability, along with the help of our alumni and campus community, threw Berea's third Zero-Waste Homecoming. They amped up zero-waste efforts this year and replaced 500 printed schedules with a scannable QR code linked to an online schedule; placed name tag recycling bins around campus; and increased awareness by offering a Berea College Zero-Waste Homecoming reusable water bottle to the first 100 registrants.

The Office of Sustainability confirmed that Homecoming 2017, Berea's first multi-day zero-waste event, was the first of its kind in Kentucky. Since then, Alumni Relations committed to making each alumni event zero-waste.

**How we do it**

During Homecoming week, Waste Ambassadors from Facilities Recycling and the Office of Sustainability "talked trash" with event attendees to maintain the integrity of the waste thrown into the recycling, compost and landfill bins placed at high-traffic events. An event is considered zero-waste if at least 90 percent of waste is diverted from the landfill. This is made possible by an on-site recycling center and composting location on Berea's campus. Compostable utensils, cups and plates also are used at most every event, with more and more departments switching to only compostable disposables at their receptions each year. Sustainable best practices are already used at each event catered by Berea College Dining Services.

**Homecoming 2019 results**

All recycling and compost collected is weighed and incorporated into a yearly total to be compared against the amount of trash collected that goes to a landfill. This year, data was compiled from the Caramel Apple Bar, Labor Program Hot Cocoa Bar, Check-in/Registration (both Friday and Saturday), Block Party on the Square, Agriculture and Natural Resources Breakfast, Technology and Applied Design Breakfast, Mountaineer Basketball Players and Supporters Awards Brunch and BereaFEST. A total of 228 pounds of compost was collected, 12 pounds of recycling and 11 pounds of trash for a 91 percent diversion rate.

Learn more about Berea's sustainability efforts at [www.berea.edu/sustainability](http://www.berea.edu/sustainability)



Crystal Wylie '05

Collected:

**228** + **12** + **11** = **91%**  
pounds of compost    pounds of recycling    pounds of trash    diversion rate



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12 Months**

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a month completes the cost of tuition for a student for an entire semester

**\$70**

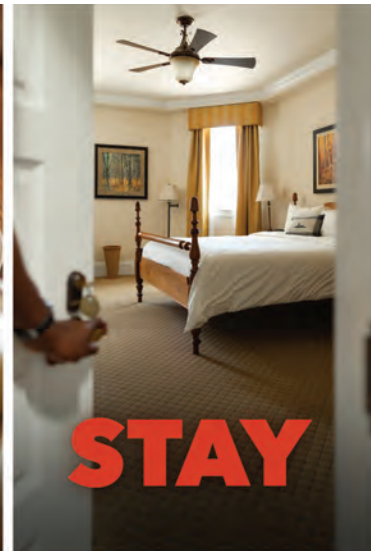
a month completes the cost of tuition for a student for two months

**\$35**

a month completes the cost of tuition for a student for an entire month

**\$10**

a month completes the cost of tuition for a student for an entire week



**Our campus has so much to share.**

*Never before have we threaded together everything we offer.  
Today, we welcome you to the Berea College Trace.*

*It's the thread that weaves together our history and our future  
and enables us to share our gifts with old friends and new.*

*We invite you to come shop, explore, eat and stay!*

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