Portraits in Community
Week of August

- Till lower field middles
- Sow sunflowers
- Keep squash, okra, eggplant, tomatoes, cucumbers picked
- Sow peas
- Dig potatoes
- Mow around compost
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Dear Alumni and Friends,

The uncertainty caused by the current U.S. and global financial crisis raises many questions. Alumni, students, faculty, and donors wonder: How will the current financial downturn affect Berea College now and into the future? Can Berea’s unique endowment funding work in such times? How have past financial downturns affected Berea College budgets and what did we learn from that? What is required of us at moments like these?

We recognize that Berea is not alone in feeling the adverse effects of the current economic downturn. The world financial situation is affecting many colleges and universities, as well as individuals in all walks of life. The impact on Berea College, however, is particularly significant because Berea derives the majority of its funding from its endowment earnings. Unlike other schools that derive their primary source of income from tuition, Berea is funded without the benefit of any tuition revenue. Berea has only three income sources—approximately 10% of our operating budget’s income comes from annual gifts by alumni and other donors, another 8% from federal and state scholarship grants that students bring, and the final 80% from Berea’s endowment income. Essentially, Berea’s endowment is its “tuition replacement fund.” Thus, when financial markets go down, our primary income stream is adversely affected and future operating budgets will be negatively affected.

Berea’s mission of learning, labor, and service has endured through the Great Depression and other difficult financial times and will persist, through thoughtful efforts, into our current uncharted future. During the good times, the College set aside an income stream that can now be utilized to soften the financial blow of an endowment that is down about half of the current market’s steep decline. But our reserve is not sufficient to cover the extent of the current financial downturn and significant budget reductions will have to take place. During the major downturn of 2000-2003, the Administrative and Budget Committees developed a set of guiding principles for budget reduction that have been revised in light of the current economic situation. Two key themes in the principles are (1) to strengthen Berea College by selective and strategic budget reductions and (2) to use attrition and strategic downsizing to maintain a strong workforce in support of our unique educational mission. On-going communications like this one and employee and student forums on campus have provided full transparency and opportunities to discuss ways to tackle the challenges before us.

The Administrative Committee is currently focusing on ways to expend fewer funds from this year’s budget and to make necessary adjustments to next year’s budget expenditures. While always frugal, clearly Berea College must constrain its spending in anticipation of lower income from our endowment and annual fund. The Dean and Vice Presidents are consulting with their budget directors to find ways to reduce this and future years’ expenditures while maintaining our core educational programs and support activities. These budget...
Crisis Hits Home

reduction processes are marked by open communication and an appropriate flow of information so that all Berea constituencies are informed and can participate in creative solutions.

While recognizing the impact that the current financial crisis is having on our donors, the College is appealing to alumni and friends for additional support at this critical time. Such support is always important, and in times such as these, even more vital. All of us who believe in Berea College’s distinctive mission must understand and help address the current and upcoming financial challenges. If Berea receives such support, it will be a stronger institution when our financial future brightens. Let us remember the good work done every day at Berea College and remember that, even in difficult times, life is made most meaningful by significant relationships with others and through work that inspires us to focus on the needs of others – especially when we have concerns of our own.

Berea College is strong and resilient thanks to all of you who are part of our special community.

Thank you for your continued support of our special mission and legacy.

Sincerely,
Larry D. Shinn, President
Berea College
I was schooled on other campuses. But since coming here, I have noticed that Bereans seem to gather around each other.

Perhaps that is because they already have a deep sense of what family and community mean because of where they come from. Once a student arrives on this campus, the unique vision that John G. Fee held of the brotherhood and sisterhood of all peoples begins to grow inside him or her. It is a vision that Bereans tend to carry into the larger world upon graduation—a belief that we must leave this world in a better place than we found it. To me, this sentiment echoes a striking poem by Starhawk: “Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done. Arms to hold us when we falter. … Someplace where we can be free.”

This issue’s articles speak to those conjoined strengths and communities made stronger through group effort. Examples include the Berea alumni, faculty, staff, and students who rallied around Karen McDaniel, ’73, as her research for The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia grew into community restoration projects (p.11); the Good News Mountain Garage, developed by David Cooke, ’82, and Barbara Bayes, Cx ’71, to make a difference in a West Virginia community by providing reliable transportation to low-income residents (p.16); and 20 Berea students in the Entrepreneurship for the Public Good program who conducted community gatherings this summer to investigate ways to create jobs and stimulate the economy in Hyden, Kentucky (p.14).

Sometimes following your career means, as it did for me, living in a new city, discovering, creating, and building a new community that supports you and whom you support in turn. Dallas Leake, ’77, used the team-building mentality and skills he developed on the basketball court at Berea and applied them to helping at-risk youth in his new hometown of Fremont, Ohio (p.30). Many alumni – so many, in fact, that we could only single out a few – began their lives in community-building through Students for Appalachia, which is celebrating its 40-year anniversary. In particular, we focused on what it means to become a ‘community angel’ through the stories of Patti Tarquino, ’04, Freddie Brown, ’93, and Ann Grundy, ’68 (p.32). Liberian refugee Jerry Mwagbe, ’94, likewise will return to Cuttington University as an educator (p.36).

While focusing on “community” for this issue, I also discovered a wealth of information on what it means to be an Appalachian. In this Fall issue you will find the poignant pictorial essay of O’Neil Arnold, ’85, whose photographs often grace the pages of the Berea College Magazine. Here, through his eyes, we can see this summer’s tour of Appalachia that was led by Dr. Chad Berry as part of the College’s team-building and welcome for new faculty and staff (p.18). You will also find a story that was 50 years in the making and which beautifully depicts and analyzes the ways that we as Appalachians, as Bereans, and as community members envision that place called “home” (p.24).

I am thrilled with this issue and with all the individuals we were able to highlight; and I hope you will feel that way, too.

Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done.

—Starhawk
College Presidents Urge Kentucky Lawmakers to Meet Environmental Challenges

At the second Energizing Kentucky conference held in September in Louisville, keynote speaker Thomas L. Friedman, author of the recent Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution, urged the crowd to think beyond “business as usual” in addressing the energy crisis. Friedman urged America to turn its ingenuity and entrepreneurial thinking toward creating a transformative, green business strategy.

Friedman was joined by Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear and Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. Huntsman said it would be a mistake to wait for the federal government’s leadership. “I’m absolutely convinced it will begin at the local government level first.” He noted the ways in which Utah has begun to address the issue, including instituting a four-day work week, converting his state’s vehicle fleet from gas-powered to natural gas and hybrid vehicles, and creating a revolving loan fund for industry and builders to help them convert their facilities and make them more energy efficient.

Gov. Beshear noted that “America’s national security now depends on how energy independent we can become.” He called for Kentucky to embrace a multi-pronged strategy to solve its energy challenges and for the state to become a leader in conservation and developing green technology. He urged Kentuckians to change their energy usage patterns and become more conscious of the environmental effects of energy use.

Energizing Kentucky is a collaborative project led by four college and university presidents: Larry Shinn (Berea College), Jim Ramsey (University of Louisville), Lee Todd (University of Kentucky), and John Roush (Centre College). All four college presidents testified before the Kentucky House and Senate joint Special Subcommittee on Energy, which held its regular meeting as a panel of the conference.

The third and final Energizing Kentucky conference will be held in April 2009.

Boone Tavern Hotel to Close Temporarily

Guest rooms in the historic Boone Tavern Hotel are closed from November 1 through mid-February, 2009. The dining room will continue to serve lunch and dinner three days a week through December 15, and then close until February 15. The newly renovated hotel and dining room will re-open this spring, in time to coincide with the 100th anniversary of its creation as a guesthouse for College visitors.

Work will include reconstruction of guest rooms, installation of new public restrooms on the first floor, upgrades to the dining room, renovation of the Lincoln parlor, lobby, and front desk area, and construction of a two-story portico and a guest entrance on the east side of the building.

The $9.6 million, eco-friendly renovation began January 15, 2008. The project will preserve and enhance the historic character of Boone Tavern and provide amenities that today’s travelers expect. The green renovation is designed to earn Boone Tavern the distinction of being the first Kentucky hotel to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program.

On Short Street, workmen are creating a new covered hotel entrance from the Boone Tavern parking lot.
Recycled Plastic Created This Ecovillage Playground

This past summer, the delighted squeals of children could be heard blocks from the Ecovillage, with the new, highly anticipated playground installed in time for summer fun. Located in the center of the complex, the playground provides a safe venue for the Ecovillage community and their families.

Consistent with its green commitment, the Ecovillage play equipment used roughly 45,000 recycled plastic containers. The Earthscapes Play Structures are made of nearly 100 percent reclaimed, post-consumer plastics. The equipment was also designed to minimize maintenance costs, ensuring that it will remain in its prime condition for years to come.

Berea Continues to Make the News

Over the summer, Berea College garnered a good deal of media attention – and for a variety of reasons.

*The Princeton Review*, a New York-based education services company, featured the College in its 2009 annual edition of *The Best 368 Colleges*, which names the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education. A college’s appearance on these lists is attributable to a high consensus among its surveyed students about the school. Berea made the top lists in “great computer facilities,” “great library,” “diverse student types on campus,” and “low cost of living.”

*Thedailygreen.com*, a web-based, green newsletter published by Hearst Corporation, recently lauded Berea College for serving locally grown food on its Food Service menu and deemed it “One of the 10 Greenest Schools in America.” *Back Home in Kentucky* lauded the environmentally focused renovation of Boone Tavern as “consistent with the historical values of Berea College, long recognized as a leader in preserving Appalachian culture and natural resources.”

In its August/September issue, *Mother Earth News* called the Berea community one of the “Nine Great Places You’ve Never Heard Of.” The article focused on Berea’s unique history that has made it the “folk arts and crafts capital of Kentucky.” *Mother Earth News* praised the College’s Student Crafts program and attributes it to the flourishing interest in Appalachian culture.

Project Pericles Workshop Helps Students Focus on Making a Difference

At the conclusion of the April 2008 Debating for Democracy (D4D) national conference, its sponsor, Project Pericles, asked student leaders to return to their campuses to educate their classmates and community about important policy issues, form coalitions, organize events, and advocate for their issues with elected officials.

This October, the first annual “D4D on the Road” workshop was held at Berea College in conjunction with the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service program.

The one-day civic engagement training program was held nationwide on 11 campuses. Novice and seasoned political activists demonstrated the tools and tactics needed to persuade lawmakers and candidates to “see things your way.”

The workshop was led by Christopher Kush of Soapbox Consulting, a leading provider of training seminars, workshops, and lobby days. Attendees received a copy of Kush’s *The One-Hour Activist*, which provides advice from elected officials, professional organizers, lobbyists, and journalists on political advocacy. The workshop was co-sponsored by Project Pericles and the Spencer Foundation and was co-hosted by a number of student groups and academic departments.
Appalachian Center Upgrades Its Gallery Space

After six months of extensive renovations, the Appalachian Center rededicated its exhibit space on September 1. Revamped with new technologies, a library, and a wider selection of changing exhibits, the gallery more effectively showcases the historical culture of Appalachia for students, faculty, and visitors.

As sunlight slants through a large window, the open central space creates a high-traffic area that can seat up to 60 people for public presentations. Student workers are available to provide assistance to visitors and the office space uses Appalachian-crafted furniture in an effort to support local economies. Recent exhibits included displays on African Americans in Appalachia; craft traditions and the environment; locally made dulcimers; stereotypes; and a “puppet caravan” headed by art professor Neil DiTeresa between 1970-95.

The Center also features exciting new structural upgrades, moving the Center towards energy self-sufficiency. To reduce energy consumption and improve the preservation of its artifacts, the Center replaced its old gallery lighting system. The flexible new system allows it to experiment with emerging lighting technologies, such as extremely efficient, artifact-friendly LEDs. Over time the Center plans to reduce its lighting energy usage to equal the production of the 15-kilowatt solar array soon to be installed on the roof of Bruce-Trades.

The newly remodeled, eco-friendly gallery provides changing exhibits and meeting space for Appalachian Center events.

President Shinn Offers a ‘Simple’ Message

Musicians Al and Alice White opened the Fall ’08 convocation series with the Shaker song “Simple Gifts.” The music underscored President Shinn’s address, which focused on the College’s evolving commitment to sustainable living. Sustainable living, he said, derives from an entire lifestyle. “Living simply means reducing the complexity of our lives, so we can focus on what really matters.”

While approaching eco-friendly renovations and using green or recycled products is a part of the sustainable plan for this campus, President Shinn urged faculty, staff, and students to contemplate the human component of living a sustainable life. “One of our missions at Berea is to have a reflective and effective life.”

One reason for stress in our lives, he suggested, is the absurd emphasis placed on consumerism in our culture. “The U.S. is 4 percent of the world’s population, but we use 25 percent of the world’s resources.” He noted that the average household debt in America is almost double that of ten years ago.

In closing, President Shinn reflected that, “A simple life may not be so simple after all...We can’t legislate what is a simple life. Instead, we must all shape our lives as individuals in a way that makes us happy with the things that really matter.”
Rivage-Seul Book Accepted for Publication

Michael Rivage-Seul, director of the Peace and Social Justice Studies program, recently published *The Emperor’s God: Misunderstandings of Christianity* with the Institute for Economic Democracy.

The book’s title plays on the name of a group of classes offered by Berea College, one of which he instructs regularly – “Understandings of Christianity.” Dr. Rivage-Seul previously chaired the committee that reassessed the College’s Christian commitment and says this committee work influenced his book. “The book reflects what I’ve learned over the years in my work and studies in the Third World, especially about Liberation Theology,” he said.

Berea Staff Members Present at Conferences

Grace Sears, of Special Collections and Archives at Hutchins Library, presented a paper to the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists, in Memphis, Tennessee. The paper reviewed the life and work of Ada Loaring-Clark, an expatriate from England. Mrs. Loaring-Clark spent much of her life in Tennessee, organizing community service and mission work, especially service to the blind in Chattanooga and across Tennessee.

In April, Chris Lakes, of Student Life, and John Stauffer, of Residential Life Collegium, presented “Scenes from College Life: Using student-made videos to enhance training and orientation programs” at the American College Personnel Association National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Cartmill Joins Berea College Athletics

In September, Mark Cartmill became the new director of Athletics at Berea College. He received his bachelor’s degree in physical education from St. Lawrence University and a master’s degree from Western Carolina University. He gained experience in coaching, teaching, and athletics administration at the collegiate level while working for the College of St. Joseph in Rutland, Vermont, the University of Maine in Augusta, and Paul Smith’s College in New York.

While Berea College awards no athletic scholarships, the school is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), holding 16 intercollegiate sports. Last year, four Berea College teams went on to NAIA nationals. The teams were: women’s basketball (for the third consecutive year), swimming, men’s cross country, and track and field.

William Turner Is a Kentucky “Everyday Hero” Featured on KET

William H. Turner, the National Endowment for the Humanities Chair in Appalachian Studies at Berea College, was a recent guest on *Connections with Renee Shaw*, a Kentucky Educational Television (KET) interview series featuring minority issues and “everyday heroes.”

In his interview, the Harlan County, Kentucky native described his childhood in Lynch, his family roots in Appalachia, and misconceptions of Appalachian culture. Turner corrected a misconception by saying that after World War II, racial diversity and ethnic equality were not only commonplace, but encouraged by the United Mine Workers in Appalachia. He went on to state that Appalachians must take an active role in shaping the image of the region if stereotypes are to ever change. He also praised Appalshop, a multidisciplinary arts and education center in the heart of Appalachia.

Turner is updating his 1985 book *Blacks in Appalachia*, and served as a co-editor of a recent issue of *Appalachian Heritage*. 
The Power of a Reclaimed History

By Rose Cale ’10

“Any time you bring to light something that’s hidden and give people credit for what they’ve done, that’s a powerful thing,” says Karen Cotton McDaniel, ’73. Resurrecting the stories of African Americans through her current research project, The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia, gives Karen McDaniel a great sense of pride.

Karen McDaniel is currently a visiting scholar in the African American and Women’s Studies programs at Eastern Kentucky University.
From the time she was little, Karen remembers thinking that, to her knowledge, in all of her school textbooks black people had only been slaves. She hopes that future generations of children will not grow up believing that same thing. Along with co-editors John Hardin and Gerald Smith, Karen hopes to raise awareness of those African Americans who have helped to shape our country – a proud heritage she wants to pass on to her grandchildren and future generations.

“When you see people who’ve fought, people who have really risked their lives – in some cases just to sit on a bus, it’s about time somebody else knew that this happened. As we as a culture get more diverse, our students need to know that America was not built by only dead white men.” Karen wants to let other people in on this secret, and give credit where it is long overdue.

Before she became a visiting scholar at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), she worked for more than 20 years at Kentucky State University (KSU) as a full professor and Director of Libraries. At that time, she began writing essays for the Notable Black American Women and Men series. As the essays grew in scholarly importance, Karen’s own interest grew. She decided to pursue a doctorate in history, and as a result had gathered together a collection of essays on African Americans from Kentucky.

When the University Press of Kentucky acquired its new director, Stephen Winn, in 2002, Karen approached him with the idea of turning her collection of essays into a larger project. They talked about creating a Kentucky African American encyclopedia that focused on people, places, events, and organizations of historical and cultural importance.

Soon after their discussion, he invited John Hardin, associate professor of history at Western Kentucky University, and Gerald Smith associate professor of history at the University of Kentucky, to join the collaborative editing process. Unwittingly, Stephen Winn had created a dream team. The three editors already knew each other. John Hardin and Karen previously worked at KSU together and Hardin’s wife, Maxine Randle Hardin, is her sorority sister. Dr. Gerald Smith had been Maxine Hardin’s history professor and is currently chairing Karen’s dissertation committee. With these new additions as co-editors, Karen’s infectious enthusiasm for this project caught fire. It was only a matter of time before the three had written a proposal, and they received unanimous approval from the University Press acquisitions committee in the spring of 2005. The trio then began to gather topical editors and make stylistic considerations for the encyclopedia.

Once they had the green light, additional people were brought onto the team as topical editors, including many Berea College faculty, graduates, and students. Among them were Karen’s former classmates: African American studies associate professor Andrew Baskin, ’72, and sociology chairperson, and Debra Bulluck, ’10, discuss the stories of African American community members that they researched this summer.

The three co-editors also engage in field research. Karen has traveled to several places where history was being reclaimed by local people. In Hickman, Kentucky, she found community members who are restoring an old church that once housed a school for African American students in its basement. They now are turning it into an African American museum. Similar grassroots efforts were occurring in Paducah, London, and other Kentucky communities.

This summer, the Berea professors and students met Karen in Frankfort. She took the group on a tour of the Kentucky President Larry Shinn generously has given the project $5,000 from his personal fund. Last fall, Jackie and Andrew submitted a grant to work on sections S-Z in their topic area. With these funds, they brought two Berea College students into the fold for the summer of 2008: Kim-Dung Nguyen, ’10, of Norcross, Georgia, and Debra Bulluck, ’08, of Huntsville, Alabama. This micro-team spent a great deal of their time working in archives and libraries, searching for materials that are not usually available. Kim-Dung describes discovering such notable African Americans as Lucy Harth Smith, an early Kentucky feminist, and Effie Waller Smith, who was a published poet during her late 30s, but who died in obscurity. The process of finding their stories, Kim-Dung says, “inspired me to do more in my life.”

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Bridging a Gap between Personal and Community Histories

As Debra Bulluck researched an African American community in Rockcastle County, she shared her excitement with the Berea community. Hands-on activism was the result, involving a field trip to the black cemeteries in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. Local historian David Owens and the Rockcastle County Cemeteries Board invited them to see a previously unexplored site. Once there, the Bereans learned of the First Colored Christian Church and its cemetery, now completely overtaken and hidden by weeds and brush. The discoveries brought home to Debra the value of the work they were pursuing. "I felt the history in the air at that sacred location," she confides. They also learned that the Board had provided a grant to clean up three other local black cemeteries.

Hoping to return to the Rockcastle County cemeteries, Debra began talking about the sites to everyone she knew. She met with Enchanta Jackson, '09, current vice president of the Berea College Black Student Union (BSU). Interested in going to the site herself, Enchanta approached BSU president Christian Motley, '09, with the idea of contacting the local Cemeteries Board and Judge Executive in Rockcastle County to create a student service project. Enchanta and Christian jumped right on it. After contacting Rockcastle County Judge Buzz Carloftis, Enchanta coordinated a service project with the county to help finish restoring one of the black cemeteries.

In addition, the BSU made the project more highly focused by involving other campus associations and sponsors, including the African Student Association, the Black Cultural Center (BCC), the African American Studies Department, and the Appalachian Studies Department. With these sponsors, Enchanta and Christian planned the trip and coordinated the project as one of many service projects for their joint group called “Bridging the Gap.”

“These projects work to create a sense of respect and understanding between peoples, so that negative stereotypes might be ousted,” Enchanta explained. The cemetery clean-up service project seemed tailored to their purposes.

At this time, the publication date is set for 2011. The encyclopedia will accept contributed entries through 2009.

Having added much to her store of knowledge through the project, Karen underscores the fact that this is a communal work to recognize those who came before. “We all have the same needs: the need for respect, to have our voices heard, and to leave a legacy behind for our next generation.” That is a legacy of which all Americans can be proud.
Finding Solutions in Hyden

By Jyoti Kulangara, ’08

Through Berea’s eight-week summer Entrepreneurship for the Public Good (EPG) program, 20 students developed leadership and entrepreneurial skills to make a positive impact in Appalachia. The program focused its efforts on Hyden, Kentucky, a community of about 300 people in Leslie County. The students worked to “engage Hyden, let the community gauge its problems, and use the students’ expertise to formulate solutions,” says Peter Hackbert, co-director of the program.

During the first half of the summer, the students trained in a practicum, first within the College community, and then within the city of Berea. In these scenarios, the students learned to facilitate groups, to generate ideas, and to consider and weigh options that would best serve community needs—all skills necessary before they began their summer work in Hyden.

Over the course of the program, the group made two trips to Leslie County. After engaging the community, the students developed 22 ideas. These ideas, however, “didn’t come out of the students’ heads, but were developed in the context of the community,” says Hackbert. After careful consideration, the community and students “invested” Monopoly™ money in the ideas that “most needed to be addressed and were most feasible,” says Hackbert. That process narrowed the 22 good ideas down to the four exceptional and most workable ones.

Gilbert Washington, ’10, a business marketing major from Kansas City, Missouri, was struck by the community’s need for local jobs. In response to this need, Gilbert’s group suggested adventure tourism as a way to create jobs by making use of the natural assets of the county. To further develop this idea, the group talked with residents and even traveled to West Virginia to study existing models. The final proposal suggested a planned tourism project that provided for a camping and ATV (all-terrain vehicle) area, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, and paddle sports.

Because Gilbert’s group also felt the need to create local employment, they suggested fostering local entrepreneurs by hosting a business idea contest. Residents with winning business ideas would be enrolled in a program to train them in skills such as money management, business planning, and marketing. Then these entrepreneurs “will already be skilled when they go out into the field,” says Gilbert.

Nathan Hall, ’10, an independent sustainable agriculture major, was familiar with Hyden because he grew up in neighboring Allen, Kentucky. He says that Floyd County has the same problems and issues as Leslie County. Nathan has already created a biodiesel system at Berea College. He realized that if the public school system in Hyden started producing and using biodiesel fuel in its school buses, it could create jobs and decrease oil dependency and air pollution.

Sessions with community members extended the group’s project idea. The director of the Leslie County High School science program expressed interest in incorporating biodiesel into the curriculum in a way that could illustrate the concept for students. While there wasn’t enough time for Nathan’s group to completely establish production, Hall believes that there are “plenty of smart, hard-working people in eastern Kentucky” who could run the biodiesel processor. Hall says that he hopes to maintain the contacts he made through EPG after graduation, and plans to open his own biodiesel business in the area.

The first time that he visited Leslie County, Donovan Harrison-Calicker, ’10, a speech communication major and business administration minor from Chattanooga, Tennessee, noticed a throng of young children, and he recognized that an after-school program was necessary. “We talked to everyone from high-level officials to small business owners,” Donovan recalls, “and everyone said, ‘We need something for the kids.’”
Donovan’s group developed “Hatching Potential,” an after-school program for students from kindergarten through high school. They suggested activities such as tutoring, nutritional education, recreational activities for elementary school students, and financial literacy and career development for older students. He says his group communicated extensively with parents to create a program “unique for Hyden.” The hope, Harrison says, is that by involving parents throughout the process, “it won’t fall to only the program leaders and directors to run the program, but parents will be actively involved.” The EPG program strongly impressed Donovan, who says that “it changed a lot of what I was seeing and what I wanted to do as a career.” He hopes to return to his home community in Chattanooga, where he has seen gang activity and drug use, in order to engage in similar programming for youth.

Desiree Bernardoni, ‘11, is a technology and industrial arts major from Mt. Olivet, Kentucky, a town with a similar population as Hyden. While in Leslie County, her group spoke with Gabrielle Beasley, executive director of the local Habitat for Humanity chapter. Beasley told them that, because of the lack of funding, Habitat was building only one house every other year. Beasley suggested the idea for creating a Habitat Re-Store, an affiliated home furnishings outlet that sells both new and used construction and household items at a discount. The proceeds from the Re-Store go back to Habitat for Humanity for building houses. The group surveyed pre-existing Re-Stores within Kentucky in order to help counsel the Hyden Habitat chapter on start-up logistics such as retail space, donations, and grant writing. At the end of their time in Hyden, the group had already gathered some donations and secured several community partners.

Upon graduation, Desiree says she hopes to establish a hospital ambulance service in her hometown and that the efforts she saw in Hyden—like the mayor’s effort to build a community center, “really impressed on me that people can make a change in a small community. I was pretty much comparing it to my own town.”

Although the students’ summer with EPG is over, their community partners will continue to work on the four projects that Berea’s students helped to generate. Some may return as interns next summer to continue collaboration. Even if the students do not return to Hyden, the EPG program will continue its partnership and resource-sharing with the community.

“We hope the EPG students’ work this summer left a legacy of shared dialogue and activity focused on discovering ideas and innovations,” says Daniel Huck, co-director of the EPG program. “We believe our partnership with Hyden and Leslie County demonstrated that the genius of economic initiative was already present in those communities—our students just helped them uncover and focus that local talent.”
Giving Others the ‘Drive’ to Succeed

By Jyoti Kulangara, ’08

Growing up in the coalfields of West Virginia, David Cooke, ’82, observed the way his parents interacted with community members. His mother, who taught school, and his father, who ran a grocery store, showed David it was possible to “live a life of satisfaction helping people.” After graduating from Berea with a degree in industrial arts and technology, David became an extension agent with the University of West Virginia, providing the kinds of services and venues that the folks in his part of the county needed.

Having grown up in Eastern Kentucky, Barbara Bayes, Cx’ 71, understands that often “the poor are blamed when they are victims of circumstance or the economic system.” After receiving her master’s degree in social work from the University of Texas in Austin, she worked for various nonprofit and legal service organizations trying to “help them make others’ lives better.”

Little did David and Barbara realize that the winding paths of their lives would join when a group of four civic-minded people sat in a farmhouse in Lincoln County, West Virginia, in late 1999, discussing ways to help families on public assistance in their community.

During the conversation, David and his friends agreed that “the two major factors that prevent people from getting out of the cycle of intergenerational public assistance are childcare and transportation.” They decided to tackle transportation, so the idea for the Good News Mountaineer Garage (GNMG) was born.

Basing their idea on the Good News Garage started by Hal Colston in Vermont, David and the others rebuilt the program to suit the needs of West Virginia. They added “Mountaineer” to the name because, “there’s a real feeling of pride in identification with the idea of the mountaineer,” says David.
One of the community partners they began working with was a dealer who sold pick-up trucks in the coalfields. David says the dealer “definitely had a stake in what we were doing.” We were creating customers for them. The partnership surprised people who on the surface thought it didn’t make sense.” David adds, “There is this perceived dichotomy between business and social service, and between the private and public sector, but that’s a false dichotomy. People can work across those lines and everyone can benefit.”

Once the organization started functioning, they hired a mechanic to become the quality control to screen the potential of the vehicles coming in. In the spring of 2003, GNMG surveyed those who had received vehicles a year ago. They found that 93 percent of the people GNMG served still owned their cars, 70 percent were totally off welfare, 13 percent were in job training, and the rest were transitioning. Recently, Bayes received a phone call from a nurse who works at the V anderbilt Medical Center, who wanted to start a GNMG in Tennessee. She had received a car from the GNMG in West Virginia, while she attended nursing school. Now, she sees the needs of her own community and wants to address them.

Barbara knows there is still a need for GNMG. “I tell people, how could you have gotten your first car if your parents couldn’t help you? Take a situation where people don’t have parents, where parents are unable to help them. Even if they can get a job, they still have to get there. A lot of these jobs don’t pay enough that you can save to get a car,” says Barbara.

The organization now receives support from many sources. Once the people receive their cars, GNMG helps them maintain them. “It’s not a handout; it’s a hand up,” says Barbara. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources works closely with new owners to help them with car maintenance and car insurance for the first six months.

Now, as a result of that conversation between the four people sitting around in a farmhouse drinking coffee and thinking “What can we do?” Barbara gets to help Appalachian families become a part of the American Dream. She recalls a woman who had received a car and who called to thank her. The woman heard her eight-year-old son tell his friend, “My mom will pick us up from soccer practice in our car.” She realized “It was the first time in this young kid’s life that he didn’t have to bum a ride.”
On the third day of the 2008 Appalachian Tour, the Berea College bus traveled from Hindman, Kentucky through Pikeville to Grundy, Virginia, and south toward Vansant. Our destination was a Baptist church about three miles outside Vansant.

This was special to me because at Vansant, the bus drove by the hardware store my parents inherited from my grandparents. My parents retired from operating the store two years ago. I am currently living in Louisville, Kentucky. I felt numerous emotions as we drove by.

Of course, first I thought about my parents and grandparents, and wondered what it would be like if they could see the bus drive by, knowing that I was aboard, and on such a trip. Secondly, I wondered what my fellow travelers were noticing as we cruised by: if they noticed the place, and what they thought, or if it just was another part of the stream of scenery.
And there was the bigger picture. I felt a sense of excitement just to be there. It was exciting that the College chose this small place to visit. That it is representative of Appalachia. That there was something here to be “shown off.”

Although I grew up two counties away in Wise County, I always knew and have kept believing that the peoples of my home region were good people—caring, dignified, wise people struggling to live their lives peacefully with one another. I lived through bitter coal industry strikes which revealed the passions of the people. I saw the industry downswings that made the people strong and the upswings that made them thankful. I knew these qualities would be revealed to my companions on this trip and would make me happy. And they did.

As we passed, I felt an overwhelming mix of appreciation for the opportunities I’ve had to enjoy my profession as a photographer and the
experiences that come with it. Intertwined with that was the tangible sense that I had left the area. I felt it stronger than on any previous trip that took me home. I had left, and now I was looking back in as a kind of outsider. It was very strange and uncomfortable.

And so the tour of Appalachia became a tour of places in my heart. And it has forced me to reconcile where I am now with where I come from, and wonder how it fits with the future.
The 2008 Appalachian Tour for new faculty and staff at Berea College covered the following communities:

**Day 1: August 8**  
Daymon Morgan's home at Hoskinston, KY (Leslie County)  
Frontier Nursing Service at Wendover, KY  
Whitesburg, KY  
Benham, KY

**Day 2: August 9**  
Benham and Lynch, KY  
Lilley Cornett Woods  
Hindman, KY  
Pine Mountain Settlement School

**Day 3: August 10**  
Coalwood, WV – (Primitive Baptist Church)  
Southern McDowell County (Caretta and War, WV)

**Day 4: August 11**  
Bluff City, TN  
Gray Fossil Site (Gray, TN)  
Highlander Center in New Market, TN

**Day 5: August 12**  
Leave Highlander for Blackberry Farm in Walland, TN  
Knoxville to Clinton, TN  
(Green-McAdoo Cultural Center)
“I have learned about the region, have context for understanding some of my students, an appreciation for the necessity of incorporating the region in my classes, and a wonderful sense of community! I’m so grateful for this tour!”

—2007 Seminar and Tour participant
In the Indiana Jones movies, the discovery of ancient maps holds the key to finding long-lost treasures. Although he may not wear the same fedora as Harrison Ford, history professor and director of the Appalachian Center, Chad Berry finds himself engaged in a similar recovery of forgotten treasure. In this case, the maps themselves are the treasure. These maps were drawn decades ago by Berea College students and were saved by art professor emeritus Les Pross, Hon. ’92. The maps eventually made their way into Special Collections in the Hutchins Library.

Now, Berry is mining the gold that lies within these community maps.
Setting the Gold Standard

It all began in 1948, two years after art department chairperson Mary Ela hired Pross fresh from Oberlin College. Following an influx of students returning to college after World War II, Berea began a revolutionary humanities course. No academic program in the country had ever taught a general studies course this way.

Art department professors Ela, Pross, and Dorothy Tredennick, ’46, teamed with their colleagues in the music and English departments. The humanities classes provided arts experiences for freshmen and sophomores, many of whom had never received prior humanities instruction. Each student navigated a series of classes, exploring all three disciplines.

In a common early assignment, each student wrote about arts and culture in their communities. During that course, the essay followed each student through all three departments as a point of reference. Students were then asked to draw their home community, and the maps created during the first week of visual arts study remained within that department. No specific artistic direction was given to the mapmakers, except to map the community and “tell us how it is,” Pross says, and that’s what happened. “Some of those maps were beauties—and very revealing.”

Most of these maps depicted the Appalachian Mountain communities from which the majority of Berea’s students come. Other maps drawn by urban or international students offered insights into

Retired art professor Les Pross, of Berea, says that the community map project gave the students at that time a deeper sense of home and community.
locales beyond the mountains. Many of these were places that the other classmates never had seen before.

The mediums and artistic techniques varied. Some were drawn in pastels or crayon; some in watercolor, or pen and ink. Others were collaged from scraps of paper and found objects. Each map was unique, revealing treasures of the heart—the highway through green hills, the winding paths through a coal camp, the criss-crossing ties of the rail yards, the highs and lows of a geography, the pitfalls and quagmires of a community, and the sites of industry and education.

At the center of each map is that place called “Home” where X marks the spot. The maps and essays provided faculty members with a window into the often unknown lives of their students. After collecting the students’ maps, Pross and his colleagues displayed them in the art building auditorium. He recalls the excitement that spilled over on the day when the students returned to class to find all of their maps hanging on the walls. “It was something to see,” Pross says, recalling the way a student was drawn first to his or her own community map, and then followed a trajectory around the room to look at the other maps. “They could see that we were interested, too, and that we had respect for where they came from.”

In all, Pross probably saved several thousand student-drawn community maps during his 45-year tenure. After his retirement in 1991, Pross cleaned out his office and was locking the door to go home when art chairman Wally Hyleck stopped him. “Well, what about those 21 boxes of stuff backstage?” he asked Pross.

The boxes contained the humanities students’ art records and projects that he had kept for nearly 50 years. Not wanting to throw them away, Pross carried them home. For years, professors Rolf Hovey, Emily Ann Smith, Tredennick, and Pross talked about writing up the course content and pedagogy and then submitting it for publication. For various reasons, this never happened. The boxes found their way into Pross’s basement, where they sat for almost another decade. “A couple of years ago,” Pross says, “I decided it was time to do something else with them.”

He began sorting the art works, saving back a few to linger over. Most of the maps and many of the essays Smith had retained slowly wound their way from the box in Pross’s basement into the College archives. They carried with them hidden details of life in the mining camps, in the hollows, and in the towns throughout southern Appalachia. There they sat, waiting for a scholar to discover them and glean from them clues to the changing portrait of Appalachia.

On the Trail of Treasured Maps

A few maps remained with Pross. He kept them, he says, because he felt a personal kinship either with the art or with the student. In 2006, Pross felt it was time to send even these back to their creators, and he penned a half-page letter to accompany each map. Many of those who received their maps expressed surprise that their professor had kept their artwork all these years.

One week after Berry arrived at Berea College during the summer of 2006 to become the new Director of the Appalachian Center, he received a warm letter of welcome from Les Pross. The letter mentioned that Berry might find something of interest to him in the Berea College archives.

“It was a very nice letter,” Berry says bemusedly, “but frankly, I was still like a deer caught in the headlights.” He set the letter aside, but a month later he remembered it during a conversation with Special Collections librarian Shannon Wilson. “Shannon said that I needed to come over and see for myself,” Berry says. He did, and a treasure trove of information awaited him.

“It was really serendipitous how I fell into this amazingly rich collection of primary sources about Appalachia. There really aren’t that many primary sources for the twentieth century for common folk.”

During a summer 2007 research project, Berry and two student researchers, Beth Bissmeyer, ’09, and Lindsey Martin, ’09, studied the plethora of essays and maps. They scanned the materials and analyzed them with an eye for details that revealed not only an understanding of
While the assignment was to write about the culture or arts in their home communities, Bissmeyer says, “We began to see, through reading many of the essays, that students—rather than focus solely on the arts—often focused on their communities, the problems they faced, and how they felt about their homes.”

Bissmeyer and Martin noted common topics that arose in the works, such as economic indicators, issues of class, race and gender, politics, work ethic, and pride or disdain for their communities. She found that many people—even some who had written disparagingly about the corrupt politicians and the lack of education—used labels that personalized their maps. It was ‘my home’, ‘my neighborhood’, ‘my chicken house’, ‘my berry patch’, and ‘my tree’.

“Some maps were so striking that I still vividly recall them,” Bissmeyer says. One of her favorite maps was a beautiful pastel that depicted a trailer, parked by the side of the road. “The trailer, filling up a large portion of the frame, sat on bright green grass, with a magnificent sunset of pinks, purples, oranges, and blues casting behind it.”

In contrast to that ironic and strikingly beautiful image of home, she recalls another map completed mostly in black paint with a bright orange mound at the bottom and a belt around it labeled ‘Poverty Belt’. There are a few signs atop the hill—one labeled ‘Scenic Southwest Virginia’, while another says ‘No Exit’. With this map came a striking poem:

Ants of a colony scribbling
Their footprints in the belt of poverty
Led by larger yet still small creatures
of like appearance
cleargold of bubbly hops in circumlocution
of veins—Saturday night steam valve…

(Jerry Lineberger, ’72, Southwest Virginia)

“That one stuck with me a long time,” Bissmeyer says.

Listening to the Mapmakers

Berry quickly realized that these “warts-and-all” maps were important records of a rapidly changing culture. He notes that, taken together, the maps create “a dynamism of human life in all its glory.” These portraits of Appalachia—which he calls authentic “mental maps”—are honest. “This is an untapped treasure trove,” he says. “It’s a visual portrayal of people’s voices and their lives.”

Berry wondered what the artists of these maps would say about them at this juncture in their lives. During the summer of 2008, he sent letters to those for whom Berea had a contact—well over a hundred letters in all. He asked for their thoughts and feelings, their memories both good and bad, and what they thought about the face of the community today.

Many of those respondents had no recollection of ever having drawn the maps; still others remembered the class in which they were drawn. “I recall Dr.
Pross’s style of making the assignment,” writes Shayla Damron Mettille, ’72. “(He was) strolling the aisles of the classroom—with his flowing, descriptive conversation, explaining what we were to do.”

The returned maps invoked both nostalgic and ambivalent memories, as the assignment had done originally. Mary Caponite Hurley, ’67, says that she has vivid memories of New Camp, West Virginia: “walking home up a red-dog road in early spring. The mud would pull off my shoes and I would be left standing in the mud in my stockings.” Gail Ross, ’59, recalls that Parsons, West Virginia, in the 1950s was “a hustling, bustling town. I think of the courthouse square where there was a cake walk every Friday night. The whole town came out.”

Sadly, a few of these places no longer exist. Many coal camps were closed, and small towns dwindled when new bypasses diverted travel away from their country road. Still, this mental mapping across four decades provides a significant look at the changing ways that we view culture and the importance that place holds in our memories.

Many respondents said that after the mines closed, their communities had changed so drastically that, like Hurley’s home in New Camp, they were no longer recognizable. She writes: “The Boy Scout cabin burned down and Oil Well Hollow (one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen) was logged about 10 years ago.”

Some respondents critiqued their own vision of their hometowns. Noting the disproportionately large waterway next to the road, Mettille writes: “The Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River, in truth, was bigger than life. My family endured three huge, destructive floods in the first house on the right side of the road, down from the swinging bridge.” Geneva Hughes, ’62, critiqued her map of Benham, Kentucky by saying, “I’m surprised I called the baseball field a stadium, making it sound so grand.” Hughes went on to say, “It pleases me to note that the areas I labeled WOODED are still that way.”

**Mining the Maps as Cultural Treasure**

Berry sees these artifacts as a record of the cultural migration of Appalachia, the economic shifts from deep mining communities to strip mines, from abandoned coal towns to boarded up stores that once thrived in the larger mountain cities like Hazard, Middlesboro, or Wheeling. If drawn today, many of those same communities would look radically different.

“The 1950s were the heyday of mining,” Berry says. “Places like West Virginia had 150,000 miners, for example, and so the littlest hamlets had a theater, a couple of hardware stores, a hotel, a drugstore, a department store, churches, and all of this economic activity.” After the 1950s, millions of people left the region to find work elsewhere, Berry says, creating a depopulation of whole regions of Appalachia. “That is why these are primary sources, because they are mental maps of places that have changed, vanished completely, or died. These maps are a testimony to what once was.”

For Berry, the impact of these classes on Berea’s alumni sparked the idea to attempt a similar mapping project in his Fall 2008 “Appalachian Culture” class. He invited his students to tell the story of their home community by drawing it. Students in this service-learning course also had an opportunity to explore some of the maps that came before them and examine how they depict Appalachia through the decades. The course included three visits to Careetta, West Virginia, where they collected stories and created a digital storytelling project. In this way, Berry blended the Appalachia of bygone days with the Appalachia we know now.

Berry hopes that, eventually, a selection of these beautiful, haunting depictions of Appalachia, the students’ essays, and their more recent responses will be gathered into a book. He is already working with filmmaker Jack Wright on a lengthier documentary that will include interviews with Pross, alumni, and others. Berry and his student researchers are presenting some of their findings at conferences.

**Finding a Place Called Home**

One former student who had received his map from Pross sat behind him during the 2007 summer reunion service at Union Church. Afterward, he spoke with his former teacher. “He said what so
many people have said time after time,” Pross reports. “That this humanities class in particular and the College experience in general was one of the best things that had ever happened to him, that it gave him a view of the world he hadn’t had before and probably wouldn’t have had otherwise.”

Pross thinks part of that understanding comes from the fact that when they drew their maps and wrote their essays, they were freshmen and sophomores. “It hit them. It was something about being away from home for the first time. It gave them a sense of the importance of home that they could acknowledge.”

Perhaps at the time, some of the essayists felt sheepish that there was not more culture or art in their communities, yet they described the local music that was being made, the parties and dances on Saturdays. By and large, Pross says, the maps displayed “a love of place and an intense love of home. Maybe there aren’t any great painters or musicians there, but this is home, and it’s beautiful. And there may not be any art but God’s, but there’s plenty of that in the hills: the sunsets and the sunrises, and the whole environment.”

At the end of this treasure hunt through alumni memories and inside the College archives, we see two cultural archaeologists, Pross and Berry, leaning over these several thousand maps that, rather than pointing to riches, have become the lodestone themselves. Each map is a golden nugget of the rich heritage of Appalachia.

Carefully, Les Pross holds one of the last remaining maps that he will send on to Chad Berry for final inspection and safeguarding. As he lifts up a watercolor entitled “My House”, by Joyce Martin, ’68, he describes why he has held on to it so long. “It is very carefully defined, very specific, even to the swing on the front porch.” Pross points to the details of this student’s map. “The number of steps going up to the porch, the lights and the curtains in the window…. They are all very colorful. The hills in the background, the trees in the front yard.

“It all says I live here. This is where I am from.”
On and Off the Court –

By Deb McIntyre, ’10

Dallas Leake, ’77, spent his childhood years in the small city of Dunn, North Carolina, but moved to the urban center of Vero Beach, Florida, at age 13. Unhappy about leaving his home town, he soon found friends who liked to shoot hoops. He says that playing basketball helped him deal with his disappointment at leaving Dunn. As a senior at Vero Beach High School, Dallas impressed his coach, Carson Coleman. Coleman, a Kentucky native familiar with Berea College, called the College’s legendary Coach Roland Wierwille, and “as they say, the rest is history,” says Dallas.

For the past 30 years Dallas has made a mark on the lives of people where he lives by using the lessons he learned at Berea. The athlete made an impact on Berea College basketball history when he won the admiration of all Mountaineer fans who watched him deftly work his way around the floor, passing to other players. He set a record with 213 team assists during his senior year. Dallas scored an average of 19.5 points per game and connected with 126 free throws for the season (shooting 86.3 percent). He made both the KIA all-conference team and the NAIA District 32 all-star team during his junior and senior years.

Wierwille praised Dallas as one of the top point guards he coached during his 29 years at Berea. “Dallas was a great competitor who loved to play the game. He was a team leader and his teammates loved him. The people who played with him – he made them better.”

Dallas is proud to have been included in the group that helped turn around the Berea basketball program, and he names many athletes who excelled while playing Wierwille’s up-tempo game: Larry Bruner, ’74, Lamar Crenshaw, ’75, Ed Flynn, ’79, Craig Jefferson, ’80, Pete Moore, ’75, Bill Nichols, ’80, Arno Norwell, ’79, Ronnie Owens, ’78, Phil Perry, ’75, Greg Redd, ’78, and Mike Robinson, ’75.

“It was fun to be a part of that.” Dallas remembers no real problems hindering the camaraderie of the team while he played. “That’s a credit to the caliber of young men we had at Berea and the positive influence of Coach Wierwille.”

Dallas also fondly remembers the coach’s late wife, Cecilia. “She was so protective of all of us – like a mother hen. When we went on the road, nobody messed with us. She was our biggest fan.”

After graduating with a degree in business administration, Dallas landed a job in Fremont, Ohio, a small city near Lake Erie. He worked in management and sales until a plant closing caused him to change careers. But Dallas was adaptable. His years as a volunteer coach for a variety of sports cultivated skills for working with young people. When the opportunity arose, he accepted a position as community service coordinator for the Sandusky County Juvenile Court. A year later, he became a juvenile probation officer, and two years later, he began his current position as program director for the Sandusky County Juvenile Detention Center.

Dallas has found this a rewarding career for the last eight years. “It has allowed me to experience the joy of making a difference in someone’s life, to meet some very interesting people, and to learn new things constantly.”

Lessons Dallas learned as a Mountaineer have served him well as he now takes the role of program director at the Sandusky County Juvenile Detention Center.
Dallas Leake Still Inspires

different leadership positions in his home community. Being hard-working, cooperative, responsible, well-prepared, and a good role model are traits that allow him to lead others through the obstacles that come their way. He’s been a volunteer recreation league basketball, baseball, flag football, soccer, and softball coach for 22 years and a chaperone on college tours for Fremont’s high school students. An advocate for education, Dallas has served as a Fremont City School District board member, recruits minority teachers, and is a member of the Minority Achievement Council for the district. He teaches social diversity and cultural awareness classes and is a member of the multi-cultural advisory board at Terra Community College.

Dallas yearns to help today’s troubled teens, but says that success in juvenile services is complicated. He feels the youth of today are caught between a rock and a hard place. Technology gives them many advantages previous generations of parents didn’t have, he says, but he feels that the negativity that youth of today are exposed to in their formative years often sets them up for failure. “I always say, ‘Show me a kid that has issues and, more times than not, I’ll show you an adult that had something to do with it.’”

He strives to be an adult who fosters positive change, and he is thrilled when his efforts are rewarded. As an example, he recalls “Josh,” one of the teens Dallas supervised as a probation officer. Due to a poor family situation, Josh struggled on his own and had few coping skills, hindering the innate potential Dallas saw. At the time, it seemed that Josh rebelled against any advice. “He wanted to take the easy way out of every situation. I had a hard time convincing him that he could get where he wanted to go doing things the right way.” Dallas feared the youth would continue his self-destructive habits, ending up in prison.

Dallas impressed Josh with the importance of taking personal responsibility and of the power in making wise decisions. “I always tried to emphasize the enormous potential he had to do something positive with his life and that he didn’t have to wait until he was older to start realizing that potential. I often tell the kids I work with that if I could get them to think of the consequences before they act, they would put me out of work. “Unfortunately,” he said, ruefully, “it looks like my line of work is pretty secure.”

A few years later, Dallas ran into Josh in a grocery store. “He had a wife and two kids, had gone to vocational school and learned a trade, made a good living, was involved in his kids’ education, and was doing very well for the most part.” The young man thanked Dallas for his encouragement, and noting the impact Dallas had made on him. Looking back, Dallas can’t put his finger on exactly what it was he did that helped to turn Josh around. He says that he uses the same tactics with all the troubled teens he touches.

“Over the years I’ve had similar incidents, which makes what I do very rewarding. I’ve found the best way to teach or inspire young people is by what you do not say. Children don’t often do what we say; but more times than not, they do what they see us do. I try to pass on the lessons by doing what I can to be a better person and to make my community a better place.”

Dallas garners much strength from his family. His wife Mae Dell “changed my life dramatically for the better.” She runs an afterschool program in Fremont and is also deeply involved in the community. Of Dallas’ five children, Denise and Ashley enjoy rewarding careers, while Terren, Brandon, and Malcolm excel in their educational pursuits. Three granddaughters keep family gatherings lively.

Dallas says that Mother Teresa’s example of selfless living motivates him. “I often tell my kids to do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. Mother Teresa lived that every day of her life. She was a voice, a face, and a tireless worker for the less fortunate of her society.”

The life of Martin Luther King Jr. also inspires him to “address injustices whenever and wherever I see them and continue to fight discrimination and work toward equality at all levels.” As president of the area’s NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), Dallas expresses concern about the lack of minority representation in Fremont business, education, law-enforcement, and political areas. “The NAACP continues to draw attention to these inequities and tries to work with city officials and organizations to correct them.” He’s grateful for King’s example of dignity, humanity, and courage. “I feel we have a duty to be the voice of those who lack the courage or resources to speak for themselves.”

Serving Fremont seems to comes naturally to Dallas. “Community to me is an extension of your house, your home. It’s something you’ve worked hard to acquire and maintain, so you don’t want anything to contaminate it, make it unsafe, destroy it, or cause it to have a bad reputation. It’s also family, which means we don’t always get along, but when we need to, we come together to get things done.”
Theoretically retired.” These are the words Ann Grundy, ’68, uses to describe her current work status. Though she graduated before programs like Students for Appalachia (SFA) were a part of Berea College, she was still actively involved with serving others during her four years here. For her labor position, she assisted the Reverend Scottie Cowan at Union Church. “I was a preacher’s kid, so it seemed a good fit.”

Ann grew up in the Deep South in Birmingham, Alabama and Mississippi, as the seventh out of nine children. “The word ‘volunteer’ was not in vogue. People just did things. It was part of the lifestyle to be involved. In fact, we were giving of our time without ever using that word.”

In 1974, Ann married Chester Grundy and moved to Lexington. It surprised her to discover the narrow world view held by many of the other people she met. “Look, there is a large and beautiful world beyond Fayette County, beyond Kentucky, beyond the borders of America.”

After complaining to her husband for quite some time, he finally posed this question to her: “Ann, now how long are you going to whine and carry on, and when are you going to light a candle?”

That was just the question she needed to hear.

From that point on, Ann started volunteering at the local YMCA, working with the young people and teaching them about the world outside Lexington. She used the opportunity as a chance to build relationships with the families of those children with whom she worked. She and Chester developed a program called “Nia” which is a Swahili word meaning “purpose.” She has made it her purpose to enlighten people’s lives to the world beyond their community. “My goal is to help our children to discover that world, because in the process of discovering it, it’s going to benefit them. And of course, it’s going to make Lexington a better place as well.”

From 1995 to 2005, Ann was employed with the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department as the director of the Bluegrass-Aspendale Teen Center. In this way she broadened students’ ideas about the world around them. Sometimes she works in simple ways – for example introducing them to new foods like avocados and kiwi.

Though “theoretically retired,” Ann Grundy has been spending the last two years working on building up “Nia” with hopes to one day have a traveling university.
Their Communities

“I take a lot of pride in the fact that I was able to work with a lot of bright, talented, primarily African American children. That seems to be my calling and I have learned to honor that calling.”

Much like Ann Grundy, Freddie Brown Jr., ’93, grew up as the child of a preacher. He still carries with him a strong sense of community and is thankful for the hands-on approach those in his life took to shape him into the person he is today.

Freddie has always had a passion to work with youth. While growing up he saw his pastor father, who was also a police officer, positively impact the community. Following suit, Freddie ran summer basketball leagues in the park and participated with the youth ministry at his church. “I guess I grew up thinking that is what you do. I think it’s just something that is in me—it’s part of my DNA. If it weren’t for the people who interacted in my life, you never know where I would have ended up. So, I wanted to give back.”

After graduation, Freddie took a job as a store manager. It was at this job that he was approached about a position at the YMCA. Not knowing much about the organization, he did some research and was surprised to find a job description he was quite comfortable with: working with teenagers, mentoring, creating activities, and organizing programs for the community’s youth.

“I honestly didn’t realize you could get paid to do that kind of stuff.”

For the past 10 years, Freddie has worked with the YMCA, first in Lexington as the director of The Black Achievers Program, and now with the National YMCA as project manager for the African American and the Hispanic/Latino Health and Well-Being Collaborative. With this job, he works to make sure the YMCAs offer programs with the community’s health needs in mind.

According to Freddie, minorities face higher rates of life-threatening illnesses than Caucasians, even when economic factors are the same. “There are major health disparities out there, such as diabetes and heart disease. So we are trying to get our YMCAs to educate the communities about their health and how to live a healthier lifestyle.” So far, Freddie and his team have engaged nine YMCAs and plan on continuing their work to reach 14 more YMCAs across the country.
Patti Tarquino, ’04, was born in Cali, Colombia, and immigrated to the United States with her mother in the late 1980s. She grew up knowing that there is a larger world outside Kentucky. After living in Florida for a few years, her mother remarried, and the new family relocated to Maryville, Tennessee, where Patty was given an even broader picture of the United States. “When I came to Tennessee, I saw that it was a totally different region of this country. I saw poor white America. I thought, ‘Wow, these communities have the same issues that my community in Colombia had.’”

Even at 13 or 14, Patty started to notice injustices around her and was compelled to fight against them. Upon coming to Berea College, she chose a sociology major and worked with HEAL (Helping the Environment and Learning), an SFA program centered on structural and personal change to create a just and sustainable world. It was in that program that she further discovered what community meant to her.

“Community, to me, means connection to the land, connection to your family, connections to people who make decisions on your behalf. Community also means responsibility to the leadership. If I am part of a community, I have a responsibility to those people and to myself. Community means work; it means relationship building, and sustaining those relationships. Community is right here where you are, where you plant your roots.”

Patty currently works with Kentuckians for the Commonwealth in the Whitesburg office as the community organizer for Letcher, Pike, and Knott counties. At first she worried that, as a Latina, she might not fit in with the rural Caucasians in the area. Then she realized that their plight in dealing with mountaintop removal was similar to struggles her people faced in her birth country. “In Colombia we have the world’s largest open pit coal mines and there are (coal) companies that are displacing indigenous communities, pushing them out, and destroying their ancestral land.”

Patty remembers that just before graduating from Berea, Betty Hibler, then associate director of the Center for Learning Through Service (CE LTS), complimented her as being “someone who wants things better, not only for herself, but who wants to take everyone else along with her.” Four years later, Patty’s life and words are a confirmation of this. “Whatever I have I want to be able to share with someone. I want not only a safe environment and a healthy future for my children, but I want that for everyone. Because if you are not getting your needs met, or if you are unhealthy and don’t have an opportunity to thrive, I won’t either. Through leaving my country and coming to this one, I’ve learned that my livelihood is very much connected to yours.”

For each of these three individuals, community holds a different meaning. They bring their own backgrounds, family experiences, and values to their work. It is not enough for them to put into words how they feel. They put action behind their passions and bring that to their communities. As a result of their selflessness, others have thrived, learned more about themselves, and been blessed to know them as the lights they are in their communities.

“We never know when our actions may provide a spark of hope that causes one to believe in their dreams,” says Freddie. “I’m foolish enough to believe small acts can change the course of one’s life, so I choose to act.”
Students for Appalachia Keep Community Connections
By Elizabeth Vega, ’12

Aaron Housh, ’04, started his volunteer work with Students for Appalachia (SFA) during his freshman year. More than eight years later, he still feels the impact of that experience and carries with him the important lesson taught to him by an older man waving and smiling from a four-story window.

Aaron was volunteering for SFA’s Adopt-a-Grandparent program when he met Flemon Kerby, a gregarious gospel singer who lived in the former nursing home located at the Berea Hospital. Aaron had just moved cross-country to attend Berea. His visits with Mr. Kerby eased his homesickness. Mr. Kerby, eager for company, welcomed the visits from the young man.

It didn’t take long for the two to forge a genuine friendship despite their 65-year age difference—or for that friendship to extend into the Berea College community. Soon, Aaron, pushing his older friend around campus in a wheelchair, became a familiar sight, as was Mr. Kerby holding court in food service. “He loved people, so he became the talk of the place,” Aaron says. “Everybody came to sit with us. He told stories and entertained us with hymns.”

One week, bogged down with midterm exams, Aaron didn’t visit Mr. Kerby for three days. A call from the activities coordinator at the hospital jolted him out of his Berea bubble. Mr. Kerby had not left his window that overlooked Aaron’s dorm for two days. Aaron ran out of Blue Ridge, looked up, and saw Mr. Kerby smiling and waving. “That experience changed me,” he says. “Unless I was out of town, I didn’t miss a day. I knew from that moment on I was doing something that had meaning.”

Meaningful volunteer work and deep community ties have been an SFA legacy for four decades. SFA, along with the student-led service organization called People Who Care, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Through the years SFA has grown. In its beginnings, it was known as Campus Action for Mountain Progress (CAMP). When in 1968 the federal Department of Economic Opportunity provided funds through the Council of the Southern Mountains, the group changed its name to Students For Appalachia. While the funding has changed, the SFA programs throughout the years have retained a commitment to providing service and creating community leaders.

Heather Schill, ’99, knows first-hand that SFA can change the lives of several generations. She currently coordinates the student-led programs of SFA through the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service (CELTs), but her connection to Berea began long before she was even born.

Heather’s aunts and uncles attended SFA CAMP in 1966. The camps inspired her relatives to look beyond the stereotypes imposed by others and see for themselves who they could become.

In 1990, when Heather was 12 years old, she also attended day camps sponsored by the SFA. “I always knew about Berea through conversations with my family, but after spending two weeks learning about the College, it came together. I thought, ‘Hey, I can do this.’ I think that was about the time I started to tell myself that I was going to Berea.”

After graduation, Heather took a job as a social worker, eventually coming back to work at Berea College as a member of the CELTS staff. One day, things seemed to come full circle. While looking through old photo albums in the office, she came across a picture of her mother’s family. She copied the photo to share with her family. Alongside the richness of her family’s historical relationship to Berea College comes a deeper feeling of responsibility to future generations in her community. “They are big shoes to fill,” she says. “I know that I am working now with young people who may have children who will eventually attend Berea.”

Heather knows that the SFA student workers receive as much from this program as the people they serve. Through work in SFA, she says, “students are able to put their classroom experience into practice, and make lasting change in this community.”

Often this real-life experience translates into meaningful life work. Aaron, who currently works at Hospice Care Plus of Madison County, is one of the many alumni who have used the SFA experience to go back into communities and serve. After working in the Adopt-a-Grandparent program, he became SFA student director. Now, his work with Hospice patients and his work with the volunteers he manages, is shaped by the initial exchange he had with Mr. Kerby.

“In the beginning, it was just an extracurricular activity, but it became so much more than that,” he says. “I think the legacy of this organization is that it prepares people to go out and change the world through volunteerism.”
Although Jerry Mwagbe (pronounced Mong-bay), Cx’94, arrived in the United States practically penniless, a refugee from Liberia’s first civil war, he carried within himself the richness of character that hope and courage provide.

Mwagbe, at the time a student of Cuttington University in Suacoco, Liberia, found his life confronted by unbelievable violence. “Before the civil war, I was a typical student who goes to college young, not focused, even though I had the aptitude and ability. But the war was my rude awakening. Everything my family owned I saw shatter. Friends who I’d grown up with, went to college with, I saw them die right before my eyes.”

While completing his degree in English at Cuttington and teaching at the high school level, Mwagbe was forced to flee his homeland and loved ones for the sake of his future. To help family and friends, he first had to help himself. He became a homeless refugee in neighboring Cote d’Ivoire. There he met a friend, Francis Sumo, who introduced him to Berea College. Sumo had traveled to Kentucky as a part of the Cuttington-in-Exile Program, a former joint humanitarian and academic initiative established by the two institutions.

Initially, the transition from Liberia to America appeared difficult, as with the frightening prospect of meeting his host parents, William and Rose Ramsey. “Being brainwashed about stereotypes, I felt I was a little guy from Africa, and why would a wealthy, middle class,
Caucasian family be interested in me. I thought I would be made a fool of, but when I went for Thanksgiving in 1993, they took me as one of their own.”

With genuine concern for his progress and well-being, the Ramseys watched over Mwagbe during his time spent in Berea. They provided transportation to and from campus, assisted with graduate school interviews, and offered a warm and safe haven away from the political disorder and social turbulence of Liberia. Inspired by their kindness, Mwagbe vowed to return home to help his country recover.

Having experienced the devastating effects of war firsthand, Mwagbe hopes that the world will learn from Liberia’s mistakes. “If you look at Liberia’s history and progress before the war, people knew what peace and serenity were. We had been one of the most stable nations in Africa, but the war has taken us about 40 years backward.”

Still, he believes that his country is becoming a positive model of a post-conflict society. “Liberia can be a symbol of what global peacekeeping can do. Other nations need to learn that diplomacy should supersede the arms struggle, should come to a consensus of what the world opinion is, instead of going to war. War is one of the most negative developments of civilization.”

It is more than momentary exposure that caused Mwagbe to raise his voice in opposition to violence. During Liberia’s civil war, while the country was in turmoil, he became a rebel fighter at the age of 26, around the time his daughter was born. Trained in military tactics, Mwagbe worked for one of the most feared guerilla leaders in Africa’s recent history. “I saw brutality at its best, and I saw harassment, intimidation, so I knew there were things that mattered more in life.”

At the point when the first official ceasefire between warring factions had been declared, Mwagbe worked as features editor for a military publication, writing extensive commentaries that exposed past deeds and inconsistencies of politicians in the country’s then interim government. However, he was forced to leave his faction, fearing for his own safety, after he sharpened his words and turned his pen against his own leadership.

It would be 13 years before Mwagbe returned to Liberia.

With so much time spent away from home, he has had the opportunity to reflect on the weaknesses in human nature that lead to political and social breakdown. Mwagbe believes that governments must provide the basic needs of the people. “Food, education, affordable housing, in the absence of them, people can be vulnerable and misled. That compounded with illiteracy, anybody can come and act like a prophet and woo people into picking up arms to fight.”

And while Liberia has seen an improvement within its governmental infrastructure, it still struggles with political corruption and the resulting poverty. According to Mwagbe, “People think peace has been the absence of war. Poverty is a form of war.” Such an opinion drives him to action, as he searches for service-based solutions to his country’s problems.

Recently, for the first time in over a decade, Mwagbe visited home. “It has been a good feeling, for closure and the reevaluation of the next phase of my life. I have rekindled old friendships and met family members who were born during my absence from the country.” This journey to Liberia, long overdue, will not be his last.

This coming January, Mwagbe will serve as special assistant to the president of Cuttington University. He has also arranged to teach at Cuttington and is currently planning the opening of a writing center to promote education and strengthen literacy. Mwagbe views these opportunities as a means of fulfilling a promise made long ago, not only to himself, but also those who supported him in his journey from hardship to success.

“The best legacy I can leave is to help my fellow Liberians. I appreciate what Berea did for me, and it was not just for me, it will eventually turn out to be for generations of Liberians. It’s come full circle.”

Jerry spends his free time playing music.
About Berea People

1930
Donnell H. Gould is a retired meteorologist and resides in Kervella, TX.

1942
Olive Gay Clark resides at the Lexington Country Place in Lexington, KY.

1944
Bertha Bell Seal is a retired teacher and chaplain to the Rock County Retired Teachers, Unit 1. She serves on many church committees and chairs one of them. She resides in Winter Haven, FL.

1945
Robert J. Turley, Jr., Navy V12 ‘44-45, has written The Rule of Law and Unintended Consequences, which was released in 2008. He resides in Lexington, KY.

1946
Patricia Williams Morgan is retired and teaches a class in writing life history, leads two book groups, and is a church historian. She resides in South Burlington, VT.

1949
Josephine Richardson Haywood was elected president of the Kentucky chapter of the National Society of Arts & Letters in 2008. The Society grants scholarships to talented young Kentuckians in several fields of the arts. She resides in Lexington, KY.

1951
Fontaine Banks, Jr. was called from retirement by Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear to complete an audit of the state government. He has written his memoirs which were published in fall of 2008. He was the principal speaker at the dedication of two statues of former Governor Bert Combs. He and Barbara, his wife of 47 years, reside in Frankfort, KY.

1952
James A. Fish is working part time as corporate counsel for NA Degerstrom, Inc. in Spokane, WA where he and Micksie, his wife, reside. Walter W. Jacobs and Jean B. Jacobs celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 21, 2008. They reside in Greenville, SC.

Virginia Piland’s Quilts Speak Volumes

Berea’s fourth annual Quilt Extravaganza showcased quilt creations by Virginia Ferrill Piland, ’43. Piland began quilting after her mother’s death in 1974 when she found quilting materials among her effects. She has created quilts to air her views on smoking, prejudice, religion, and global warming. Her quilt, “O Jerusalem!” featuring symbols of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, hung in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The large Gilgamesh tapestry that hangs in the entrance of Hutchins Library on campus is also her creation. Her quilts may also be seen at St. Joseph Hospital in Berea, and in the Berea branch of the Madison County Public Library.

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

Berea Is Coming to You!
Berea College Clubs are all over the country. One is probably meeting near you!

To find alumni in your community, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 1.866.804.0591.
1954

Bill Napier and John Few, roommates at Berea, were reunited for the first time since their graduation at the 2007 annual picnic at Berea College. Bill resides in Cheales, KY, and John resides in Lilburn, GA.

1955

General Croucher, Jr. retired from the US Air Force civil service in 1989. He works part time at a local garden center and resides in Beaver Creek, OH.

1956

Peter R. Whitis, MD has published Beyond Running: The Road as Mentor. He is a retired psychiatrist and was one of the early long-distance runners, participating in multiple marathons. He was one of 30 American peace activists chosen to visit the Soviet Union and meet former Secretary General Gorbachev. He and Martha Noss Whitis, ’57, reside in Eau Claire, WI and have four sons.

Georgia Walker Williams, ’56, and Robert P. Williams, ’49, are retired and reside in Huber Heights, OH. They celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary on June 12, 2008 and would enjoy hearing from their Berea classmates.

1958

Imogene Walker Poole, Ph'D ’58, retired after 47½ years in the health care field. She and Dale, her husband, have been married for 49 years. They have three children, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. The Poole’s reside in Marion, NC.

Agnes Kulungian Woolsey’s paintings were on exhibit and for sale at the Mendocino Art Center in June 2008. She resides in Mendocino, CA.

1960

Phylis Mize Pierce was appointed an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration and assigned to the Radcliff, KY Hearing Office. She and John T. Pierce, her husband, have two children and two grandchildren. They reside in Kingsport, TN and would enjoy hearing from classmates.

Norma Wesley Watson is a retired nurse. She has a son, a daughter, and two grandchildren. John D. Watson, Jr., her husband, died March 30, 2006. She resides in Liberty, KY.

1963

Lavina Tilson Gass is retired and has built a house on the family farm in Marion, VA.

1964

Dr. Raleigh F. Johnson, Jr. was inducted into the Academy of Master Teachers at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in June 2008. In addition to teaching, he specializes in 3D imaging for clinical and research purposes. In 2000 his development of 3D imaging of the inner ear was featured on Good Morning America. He and Rita Roberson Johnson reside in Houston, TX.

1970

Ronald C. Dockery received a master Mason degree at Pond River Lodge #294, in 2007 and is serving as junior warden for the lodge in 2008. He and Charlotte, his wife, reside in Greenville, KY.

1971

Joe Brandenburg graduated from Cambridge College, MA with an education specialist degree in May 2008. He was recently appointed to a four-year term on the Berea College Alumni Executive Council.

Beverly Mosley Schill has used her nursing skills in two medical mission trips. The first was to Guatemala in 2006 and the second to Honduras in 2007. She is an active hospice volunteer. David Schill, ’71, retired from ministry in July 2008. He is serving on a part-time basis at Granberry United Methodist Church in Martinsville, VA. They reside in Spencer, VA.

Candice Shelton Strickler retired in 2007. She was a technical librarian at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for 32 years. She and Dennis Strickler reside in Oak Ridge, TN.

1972

Jerry Lineberger received the Academic Staff Excellence Award at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point in 2008. He is working on Berea College administration for the past 30 years. He resides in Rover, W.

1974

William L. Davis earned a master of arts degree in theological studies at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY in August 2003. He is an applicant for the doctoral program with London School of Theology-University of Middlesex, England. He holds a juris doctor degree and a certificate of Christian studies from Asbury Theological Seminary. He has seven daughters and five grandchildren and resides in Lexington, KY.

1976

William Daugherty received an honorary degree from Eastern Kentucky University at the May 2008 graduation and was the keynote speaker at the morning session. He is the president, chief executive officer, and chairman of the board of directors for NGIS Resources, Inc., headquartered in Lexington, KY where he resides.

1982

Bryn Gabriel received an EdD in educational policy and administration from the University of Minnesota. Bryn and Zulema, his wife, are employed at Mount de Sales Academy. They reside in Macon, GA with their children, Taryn and Kjylnn.

Elaine Sager Mancino completed a law degree from George Mason University Law School and was accepted as a member of the District of Columbia Bar. She and Michael Mancino, Jr. reside in Vienna, VA.

Janice R. Nickell is an insurance agent in Walnut Cove, NC where she and Bruce Benton, her husband, reside.

1983

Beverly Short Jennings is director of nurses at Carrington Place of Chesapeake, a skilled nursing facility and rehabilitation center. She resides in Chesapeake, VA.

John F. Kauffman, III is retired from the Marine Corps. He and Cindy Fermer Kauffman, ’83, reside in Berea, KY.

Vernon Rasoul Prince received a bachelor’s in psychology and a master’s in education and counseling from Ohio University. He and Anita Archev, his wife and high school sweetheart, reside in Greenup, KY.

1984

Martha Cobb Henialen retired as a nurse and certified diabetes educator at Floyd Medical Center. She and John Hennalein, retired associate dean for Labor and Financial Aid at Berea College, have several grandchildren and reside in Rome, GA.

1985

Ginger Owens Hodge resides in Inman, SC with her children, Matthew and McKenna.

1986

John Hickerson was named President/Chief Operating Officer of Custom Food Products in Grason, CA. Lisa Ritter Hickerson has recorded two gospel CDs and a Christmas CD. She is working on a fourth recording project. They reside in Yorks, GA with their children, Sarah and David.

1987

Jeffrey Carpenter is the owner and artistic director for Sigillaturas Studio in Graham, ME where he resides. He produces fine jewelry, paintings, fiber arts, stationery products, and photographic art. He teaches cinematic history and US history at the college level and teaches middle school.

Dr. Tracy Willis Espy, vice president of student leadership and academic associate professor of sociology at Pfeiffer University in North Carolina, was appointed to serve as the next provost and vice president for academic affairs at the university in June 2008. She and Marvin, her husband, reside in Charlotte, NC with their daughter, Sydney.
1989
Kevan McQueen in 2006 published *The Kentucky Book of the Dead* and *Currently Murdered: The Murder of Mary Magdalene* Pitts and Other Kentucky True Crime Stories. Kyle McQueen, his brother, illustrated *The Kentucky Book of the Dead*.

1992
Birth: a son, Dallon Randall, to Randall Stewart and Becky Davis Stewart on October 13, 2007. Randall is a plant inspector II for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Becky is a substitute teacher. The family resides in Manchester, TN.

1993
Birth: a daughter, Sandra Elizabeth Bandy, to Shelby Roberts Bandy and Dr. Gareth Bandy. Shelby is a preparedness coordinator at Fayette Urban County Government. The family resides in Lexington, KY.

Married: Elizabeth Ann Buchanan Blair and Michael Blair on June 6, 2008. They reside in Elkhart, IN.

1994
Shawn Pruitt Patterson received a master of science in curriculum and instruction in May 2008. His field is early childhood special education with a focus on birth to first grade. He is a program director at Kids, Inc. in Nashville, TN, an early intervention resource agency. Jimmy Patterson, '96 is a detective for Putnam County Sheriff's Department. They reside in Cookeville, TN and have a son and two daughters.

1995
Lt. Charlotte Mundy, who had been serving as Inspector of the Third Lighthouse District in New York, took command of USSCMV47 (WBP 1304) on 22 May 2008. She was deployed to the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

1996
Birth: a daughter, Maeve Catherine Gill, to Candace McCool-Gill and Adam Gill, '97 in September 2007. They have another daughter, Avren Emily, and the family resides in Sheffield, AL.

Adoption: a son and daughter, Athlann and Christopher Harrington, to Lyn Gottke. She has two other children, Ridge and Rhianan, and the family resides in Fayette, ME.

1997
Eric Hardin is a financial advisor with Edward Jones Investments. He and Kimberly, his wife, have three children, Hank, Anna Kate, and Tim, and reside in Lebanon, KY.

Bradley Pace received a master of divinity from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, in May 2008. He was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church in June, and is the associate youth and family minister at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wheaton, IL. Bradley and Katie Elder, his wife, reside in Wheaton with their two children, Laila and Miriam.

Jamie Poff is a member of the Kentucky Vocal Union Barbershop Chorus based in Elizabethtown, KY. The group won 10th place in the International Barbershop Chorus competition in Nashville, TN in 2008. He resides in Berea, KY.

1998
Birth: a daughter, Sydney Jane, to Nathan Hartman and Holly Stevenson Hartman on April 21, 2008. The family resides in Cincinnati, OH.


1999
Brian D. Reed is pursuing his doctorate in higher education at the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education. He is a speech writer and editor for the Dean of the University of Virginia School of Nursing. He resides in Charlottesville, VA.

Birth: a son, Tais Dacian Wilder, to Angela Isaacson Wilder, '99, and Jarari Wilder on August 7, 2007. They have a daughter, Aravis, and reside in Bellingham, WA.

2000
Birth: a son, Braeden Keith Rigby, to Amy Bohman-Rigby and John Rigby on January 29, 2008. They have another son, Jackson Paul, and reside in Berea, KY.

2001
Mary Ruth Issacs is working on her doctorate and teaches two classes at the University of Kentucky. She resides in Młka, KY.

2002
Deborah Payne's research paper, “Behavior Change in Water and Sanitation Practices in Rural Uganda,” was accepted for a poster presentation at the International Water Week conference in Chalmers, Sweden. She is a Peace Corps volunteer working in water and sanitation with the Kikoni Women's Development Trust in Uganda.

Nakisha "Kiki" Anderson Ramsey is a professional motivational speaker and social worker. She resides in Burlington, MD.

2003
Birth: a son, William Grady Goodpaster, to Jennifer Engelby Goodpaster and Steven Goodpaster on July 13, 2008. The family resides in Knoxville, TN.


Tiffany Smith-Cayborne received a master's degree in business administration from the University of Kentucky in May 2008. She is a claims representative for the Social Security Administration in Lexington, KY where she and her family reside.

2004
Chris Backe is teaching English at a private school in South Korea. He hosts an online blog describing his travels, life, and work in Korea.

Married: Raj Khan to Sarah Watson, '05, on February 29, 2008. They reside in Chicago, IL.

Married: Sarah Shannon Kindler to Justin Kindler, '05, on May 24, 2008. She received a master’s in physician assistant studies from Alderson Broaddus College in Philippi, WV. Justin is a student at Fairmont State University taking preliminary classes for dental school. The couple resides in Fairmont, WV.

Carl Settles is an institutional service specialist and Nikkiah Williams, '05, his wife, is a special education teacher. The couple resides in Stone Mountain, GA with their children, Christian and Nicholas.

2005
Birth: a son, Eli Nicholas Armstrong, to Jonathan Nicholas Armstrong and Jennifer Avey Armstrong on July 11, 2008. Jonathan is an accountant for the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division, and the family resides in Panama City, FL.

Married: Shameka Lewis to Jameco Grady on March 22, 2008. They reside in Greenville, SC.

Nolan Oberg met a descendant of John G. Reef when he was working at a ranch in Colorado. He now works in Berea’s Alumni Office as the Coordinator of Alumni and Student Programs. He and Anna, his wife, reside in Berea.

Ashley Hallotty received a master of arts in teaching (elementary education) in May 2008. She is a teacher in the Baltimore City Public School System. She and Jeremy Rotty reside in Baltimore, MD.

2007
Married: Taylor Ballinger to Rosanna Green, '08 on July 5, 2008. They reside in New Orleans, LA.

2008
Faculty & Staff

Russell Himes of Berea, KY died June 21, 2008. He was a maintenance mechanic in Facilities Management and was an Honorable Kentucky Colonel. He had worked at the college for 29 years. He is survived by Dorothy Griffin Himes, his wife, two sons, and two daughters.

Dr. L.T. McClure, '41, of Berea, KY died May 25, 2008. He was a dentist for Berea College for 27 years. He received Berea College's Special Merit Award in 1991. Alumni Loyalty Award in 1993, served on the Alumni Council, and was a class agent and chairperson for Summer Reunion. He is survived by LaVerne Faulkner McClure, Hon '41, his wife.

Dr. Robert "Bobbie" Gordon Meneeley, '40, of Berea, KY died June 25, 2008. He was a World War II Army veteran and professor of Business and Economics from 1946-86 at Berea College. He was a devoted teacher, a respected colleague, and a loyal son of the school that nurtured him and that he sought to serve. He is survived by his daughter and son, Laura Meneeley-Greene, '76, and Kenneth Meneeley, '77, and three step-sons, Flint Anderson, Tracey Anderson, and Toby Anderson.

Jlee Smith of Gilbert City, KY died April 29, 2008. She was the director of the College's Food Service from 1964-75 when the College operated its own food service. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Florence Griffin Tatum of West Chester, PA died June 27, 2007. She was the wife of Dr. Roscoe "Rusty" Griffin, chairman of the sociology department from 1946-62. She is survived by her children, Jannine Griffin, Knapp Hall, Fd '60, BC OX '63; Diane Fernsler, Knapp Hall, Fd '63, BC OX '66; Brian Wilson, Knapp Hall, Fd '63; and Larry Griffin, Knapp Hall.

Mary Cain Wilson of Berea, KY died May 12, 2008. She worked in the College's Candy Kitchen until it closed in 1970. She had a baking business and spent many years preparing special occasion cakes. She is survived by four sisters, Sarah Cain Eaton, Joyce Cain Johnson, Qpal Cain McClure, and Lizzie Cain Harrison.

Betty Forbes Maskewitz, '39, of Oak Ridge, TN died July 22, 2008. She was an internationally recognized specialist in information sciences and engineering physics. She authored numerous technical publications and was a noted speaker and consultant on topics in the information sciences and engineering physics fields. She retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1988 as director of the Engineering Physics Information Centers (EPIC) and continued to serve as a senior technical advisor and consultant for EPIC throughout her life. She was an active member of the alumni executive council since 2005. She is survived by her children, Morgan Maskewitz, David Maskewitz, and Rea Maskewitz.

Dr. Robert "Bobbie" Gordon Meneeley, '40, of Berea, KY died June 25, 2008. He was a World War II Army veteran and professor of Business and Economics from 1946-86 at Berea College. He was a devoted teacher, a respected colleague, and a loyal son of the school that nurtured him and that he sought to serve. He is survived by his daughter and son, Laura Meneeley-Greene, '76, and Kenneth Meneeley, '77, and three step-sons, Flint Anderson, Tracey Anderson, and Toby Anderson.

Carolyn Weir Walker, '40, of Wilmore, KY died April 26, 2008. She was in the US Army World War II Army Nurse Corps, having attained the rank of First Lieutenant, and was a retired VA Hospital nurse. She is survived by cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Corinne Shumate Hammond, '41, of Hayward, CA died April 15, 2008. She was a retired teacher and professor of English, theatre, and speech. She is survived by her daughters, Terri Humphrey and Lisa Hammond.

Dr. L.T. McClure, '41, of Berea, KY died May 25, 2008. He was a dentist for Berea College for 27 years. He received Berea College's Special Merit Award in 1991. Alumni Loyalty Award in 1993, served on the Alumni Council, and served as a class agent and as chairperson for Summer Reunion. He is survived by LaVerne Faulkner McClure, Hon '41, his wife.

Margaret Marie Grimes, '42, of Mobile, AL died May 3, 2008. She worked in administration at Butler University in Indiana for 25 years and later at Springhill Medical Supply in Alabama. She is survived by Mary Katherine Grimes, her sister.

Edith Akeem Armistead, '43, of Ft. Worth, TX died June 8, 2008. She is survived by her daughters, Linda Frances Armistead and Jessica Susan DeWitt.

Harry Leon Edwards, '43, of Austin, TX died May 25, 2008. He was president and chief operating officer for National Western Life Insurance Company in Austin for 21 years, and was active in many civic, industry religious, and charity organizations. He is survived by his children, Thomas W. Edwards, MD, Richard M. Edwards, and Linda A. Edwards.

Pearlie "Scotchie" Scott Hubbard, '43, of Richmond, TX died May 24, 2008. She was a volunteer Girl Scout leader and trainer for over 50 years and was employed by the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas for 21 years. She is survived by her daughters, Sarah Muller and Mary Griffin.

LDDR Lige Tatone, U.S. Navy Retired, Navy V-12 '43-'44 & BC '46, of Winter Haven, FL died March 28, 2008. He received numerous medals during World War II and was an officer on deck when Japan surrendered to the US. After retirement he taught math for 20 years in high school. He is survived by Christine Tatone, his wife, nine children, and one step-daughter.

Dorothy Trumbo Adams, '44, of Williamsburg, KY died April 21, 2008. She was a retired teacher and retired associate from Wil-Mart. She is survived by Roscoe Adams, her husband, and two daughters.

Wilma Davis Boggs, '44, of Loyalty, KY died April 29, 2008. She was a retired school teacher and is survived by her sons, James Samuel Boggs and Steven Parker Boggs.


Norman Landrum Wooten, '44, of Gulfport, FL died April 27, 2008. He practiced optometry for over 40 years and was a pioneer in corneal contact lenses. He served in the US Army during World War II. He is survived by his children, Dr. Michael Wooten and Sandra Pepper.

Ibert Franklin Hoover, Navy V-12 '44-'45, of Horse Cave, KY died June 21, 2006. He was owner and operator of Hoover’s Texaco Service for 25 years and was an employee of
the old Brandtner Hardware for 20 years. He is survived by his children, Frank Hoover, Rae Ann Danton, and Ruth McBry.

Joseph D. Sharp, Navy V-12, ’44-’45, of Mishawaka, Ind, died December 30, 2003. He is survived by Nithanell E. Short Sharp, his wife, a son and a daughter.

Hazel Sewell Martin, ’45, of Charleston, WV died July 4, 2008. She was a retired chemist for Union Carbide. She is survived by Gaylord Martin, her husband of 60 years, two daughters, and two sons.

William “Bill” Baxter, ’47, of Greenwood, SC died April 22, 2008. He was a First Lieutenant in the Army Air Force Reserve. He retired from DuPont-Savannah River Plant in South Carolina after 31 years of service. He is survived by Florence “Dikkie” McKee Baxter, Ox ’48, his wife of 65 years, and four sons.

Morte Matheson Davis, ’47, of Berea, KY died July 4, 2008. She was a registered nurse at Berea Hospital for many years. She is survived by her children, Rita Davis Hillard, ’73, Jim Davis, Jan Bennett, and Rick Davis.

Sue Kilbourne Dowdy, ’48, of Hoover, AL died April 19, 2008. She was a retired school teacher, was named West Virginia State Reading Teacher of the Year, and was active in local literacy and GED programs. She is survived by her children, John Glenn Dowdy, ’72, and Joan K. Dowdy, ’77.

Frederick Jackson Fugate, ’48, of Hilders, Died April 13, 2008. He is survived by Ruth Blackburn Fugate, ’53, his wife.

Jaye Skean Reynolds, ’48, of Bowling Green, KY died May 19, 2008. She was a registered nurse and is survived by her sons, retired Col. Arthur M. “Max” Reynolds, USA and John B. Reynolds.

Lula Irene Baker Sager, ’48, of Bartlesville, OK died March 9, 2008.

Clay Websterfield Whitaker, MD, ’48 of Asheville, NC died May 12, 2008. He was a doctor of obstetrics and gynecology and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He is survived by his children, Stephen Whitaker, David Whitaker, Katherine Whitaker, and Congresswoman Mary Bonc Mack.

Harland Morrison Adams, Ox ’49, of Meridan, FL died November 29, 2008. He was the grandson of Colonel Harland Sanders, the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken, and played a significant role in the growth of KFC in the Southeast. He is survived by Donna, his wife, and two children.

Naomi Eppard Fillmore, ’49, of Knoxxville, TN died June 16, 2008. She was a retired school teacher. She is survived by her children, George Fillmore, Dorothy Fillmore, Teresa Fillmore, Steve Fillmore, Helen Fillmore, and Ram P. Fillmore.

Glenn E. Harris, ’49, of Marble, NC died June 30, 2008. He was a retired US Department of Justice attorney and served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. He is survived by Hazel Harris, his wife, and a son.


Wilson L. Reeves, Ox ’49, of Ashland, KY died April 27, 2008. He was employed for 40 years as an operator with Honeywell/Allied Chemical in Ironton, OH. He is survived by sons, Cecil Reeves, Michael Reeves, and Billy Reeves.

1950s

Betty Lee White Henderson, ’52, of Middletown, OH died June 24, 2008. She was a registered nurse for six years before becoming a stay-at-home mom. She is survived by her children, Karen Thompson and Bruce Henderson.

Hail Gordon Perry, Rd ’53, of Hubbard, OH died May 3, 2008. He was a civil engineer. He is survived by Mary Elizabeth McWilliams Perry, Rd ’53, his wife of 54 years, two sons, and two daughters.

Kenneth E. Catron, Sr., ’54, of Woodburn, KY died July 16, 2008. He was in management with Southern States Cooperative, was a World War II Army veteran, and received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He is survived by Dolores Morrow Catron, Ox ’54, his wife, and three sons.

Nicola O. Stebbins of Warrenville, IL died May 19, 2007. He is survived by Ruth Nichols Stebbins, ’56, his wife.

Dr. Leo E. Gibson, Jr., MD, ’57, of Reay, MS died June 19, 2008. He was a retired obstetrician and gynecology doctor. He is survived by Lisa Gibson, his wife, three daughters, and four step-children.

Marvin W. Stebbins of Golden, CO died July 14, 2007. He was a chemist with the US Geological Survey in Denver. He is survived by Violalette Morris Stebbins, ’57, his wife.

1960s

Thomas Jackson Adams, ’64, of Vancouver, WA died June 21, 2008. He served in the US Army as an administrator in the healthcare field, and served on the Washington State Healthcare Board. He is survived by his daughters, Kathy Cordova, Beth Carter, Janet Baker, and Holly Mironski.

N. Carol Mayes Givens, Fd ’60, BC ’64, of Seattle, WA died April 30, 2008. She was a nurse and is survived by Bob Givens, her husband of 40 years.

1970s

Patricia A. Reed, ’71, of Cheat, Td died July 5, 2007. Carol Sue Terry Fison, ’73, of Owingsville, KY died June 17, 2008. She worked for the University of Kentucky Extension Service as a county extension agent for family and consumer science for 34 years. Her life’s work was focused on promoting healthy diets and lifestyles. She is survived by Kenneth Ray Fison, her husband, and two daughters.

Danny Dale Meadows, ’76, of Windsor, VA died April 12, 2008. He worked in storm water management. He is survived by Sue Wrenn Meadows, ’73 his wife of 35 years, and a daughter.

1990s

Kenton Lee Reed, Ox ’91, of Berea, KY died July 20, 2004. He is survived by Susan VanMinkle Reed, ’89, his wife.

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Clara Strong Phillips, ’33, is a puzzle to some. At 98, she cuts her own hair and still lives in the modest Kerrville, Texas mobile home she and her late husband retired to in 1970. Clara shares Berea’s value of plain living and sees her lifestyle as an opportunity to do good for others, including Berea College students. When people ask why she doesn’t spend more on herself, Clara laughs. “I’ve done everything, gone everywhere. What else is there to do but help Berea?”

Clara’s journey to Berea wasn’t joyous. After her father’s unexpected death, Clara’s mother couldn’t care for Clara and her siblings, and the family quickly dissolved. Four sisters went to an orphanage, and after finishing eighth grade, Clara, who had never been more than 10 miles from her Breathitt County home, landed at Berea’s Foundation School. It was 1925. Clara was 15 years old.

Thinking back on that “nightmarish” time, Clara credits Berea for transforming her life. “I came to Berea without a dime,” she says. “Berea made it possible for me to realize my dream.”

To honor “the best education I could have possibly gotten,” Clara made her first gift to the College in 1934. Since then, she has continued to support her alma mater and grow in her role as a donor. In 1987, she purchased an annuity, the first of many. With a strong belief that alumni support is the key to keeping the Berea mission alive, Clara has made provisions to leave a large portion of her estate to the College. In addition, she has endowed two funds that help Berea students.

As Clara marches toward her 100th birthday, “slowing down” isn’t in her vocabulary. She remains active in church and community work and volunteers weekly at Kerrville’s senior center, as she has for more than 35 years. To those who know her well, Clara is no puzzle at all. She is the symbol of the Berea mission in action, living proof that “all labor is dignified, you learn from everything, and work is service in the community.” When asked about the secret of her longevity, Clara answers with a quick laugh, “Loving people and helping my neighbors.”

Despite her accomplishments, Clara remains humble. “I haven’t done any great things,” she insists, “but my Berea College training has guided me all my life. Everything I am I owe to Berea College.”
Ronald Kennedy, '66, Clintwood, Virginia