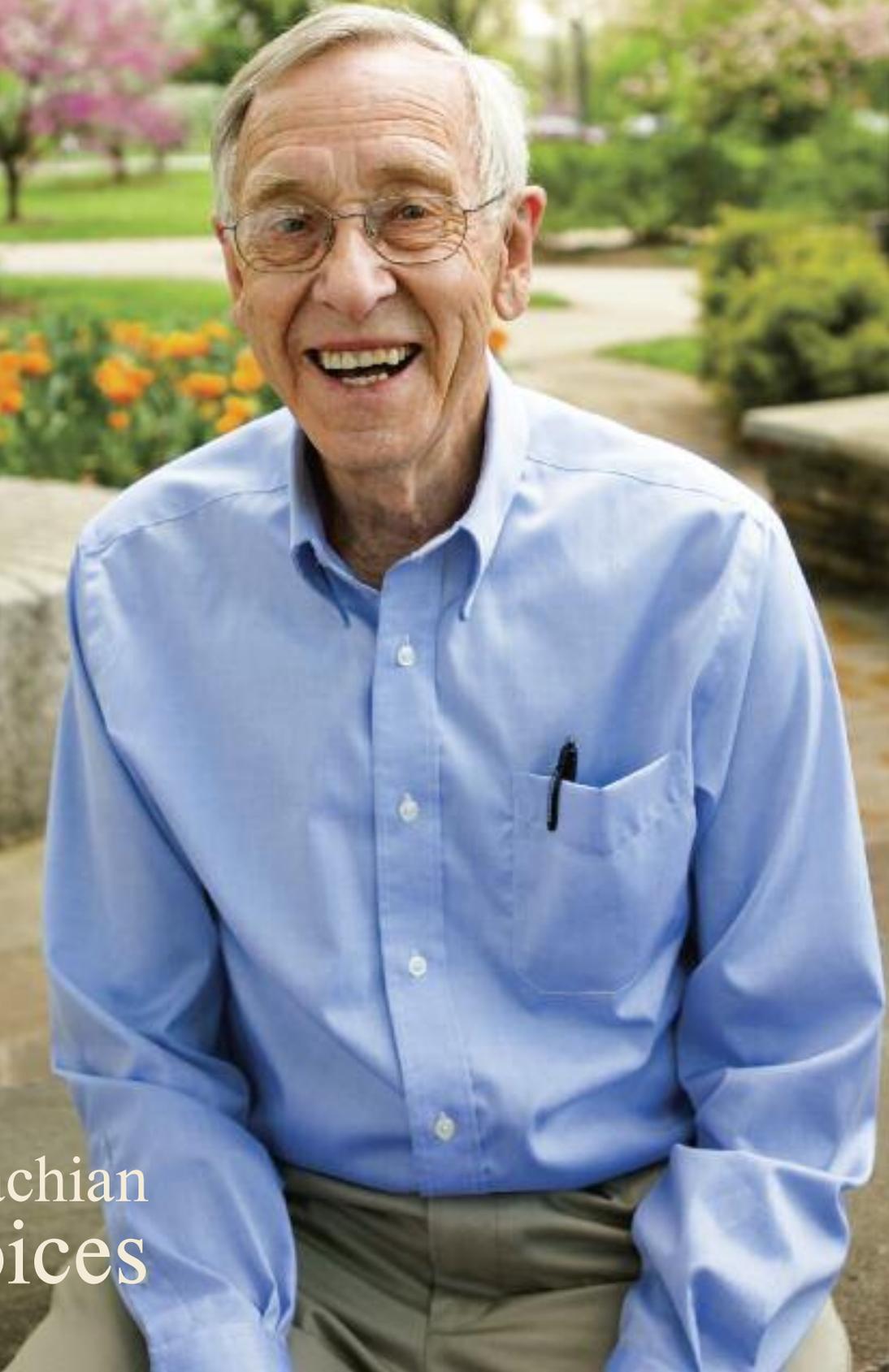
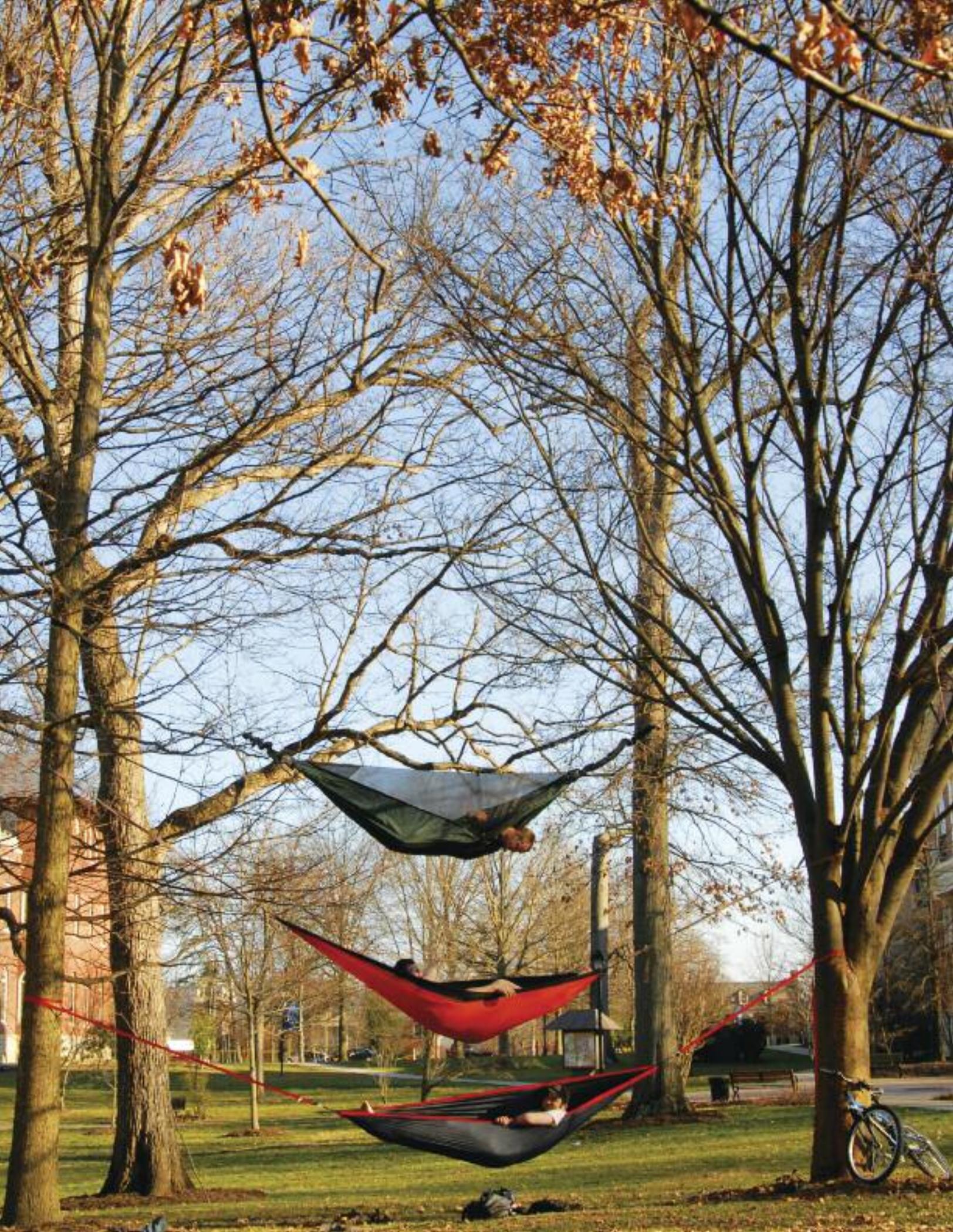


BEREA

COLLEGE MAGAZINE SPRING 2010



Appalachian
Voices



CONTENTS

BEREA COLLEGE MAGAZINE www.berea.edu/alumni/
SPRING 2010 : Volume 80 Number 4

22



Meet Mister Appalachia— Loyal Jones

Student Managing Editor: Deb McIntyre, '11

Contributing Writers:

Jay Buckner, Maggie Hess, '13, Libby Kahler, '11, Monica Leslie, '11, Michael Lorrus, '09, Robert Moore, '13, Megan Smith, '11, Morgan Smith, '12, Bishen Sen, '13, Julie Sowell, Ahmad Shuja, '11, Kate VanEchoute, '11, Hannah Worcester, '13

Front Cover: Loyal Jones, '54, photo by O'Neil Arnold, '85

Inside Front Cover: Top to bottom: Jonathan Carman, '12, Brian Easterday, '12, and Ben Comin, '12, photo by LeAnna Kaiser, '12

Inside Back Cover: Dancing Wheels company performers at convocation in April, photo by Aaron Gilmour, '12

FEATURES

- 5 **The Writing Life:
An Interview with C.E. Morgan**
- 6 **The Mountains – They Are Callin’**
- 8 **Extension Agents Extend
a Hand in Appalachia**
- 10 **“Swarping” with the Best of Them**
- 13 **Karen McElmurray:
Hearing What the Heart Says**
- 16 **Vicky Hayes – A Compelling
Appalachian Voice**
- 18 **She Taught Lessons for Life**
- 21 **Building a Better Appalachia**
- 26 **Guy Adams Comes Full Circle**
- 28 **Honoring the Pioneers**

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 **Editor’s Note**
- 30 **Campus News**
- 34 **News from Faculty, Staff, and Trustees**
- 35 **Alumni Connections**
- 37 **About Berea People**
- 40 **In Memoriam**



EDITOR'S NOTE

People are hungry and one good word is bread for a thousand.

— David Whyte, "Loaves and Fishes"

Two of my favorite topics intertwine in this issue: Appalachia and writing. Here, we feature a few of the notable, talented, and thought-provoking authors from our region. Chief among them is the prolific icon Loyal Jones, '54, sometimes known as "Mr. Appalachia" (p. 22). He was among the first to welcome me and my husband David Hurt to Berea more than five years ago.

Loyal Jones is wise and generous, and it is a pleasure to feature him in this magazine. He has influenced nearly every Appalachian scholar, author, and old-time musician; including memoirist and novelist Karen McElmurray, '80, who visited Berea's campus recently (p. 13), and Mike Mullins, '71: director of the Hindman Settlement School and its annual Appalachian Writers Workshop (p. 10). We also spotlight three other exceptional writers: C.E. Morgan, '02, whose first novel received the Weatherford Prize in Appalachian Literature (p. 5); Vicky Hayes, '99, who heads up the Learning Center by day and writes full-throttle on her novel during weekends and evenings (p. 16); and memoirist Jane Powell, '65, who chronicles the lives of her African American family from the coal mining hills of West Virginia (p. 18).

We also note the contributions to Appalachia by those who serve the region, including extension agents Steve Duckett, '89, Carmen Long, '86, Renata Farmer, '02, and Brandy Brabham, '00 (p. 8). We note the efforts of faculty members Janice Blythe (Child and Family Studies) and Jason Coomes (Sustainability and Environmental Studies) who work to find solutions to the pressing problems of health and housing that still exist in Appalachia (p. 8, p. 21). Guy Adams, '81, returns to the region, bringing his skills in management and philanthropy as the new director of the Christian Appalachian Project (p. 26).

The groundbreaking work of three alumni and their contributions to the founding of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission 50 years ago—the late Galen Martin, '51, and David Welch, '55; and the contributions of Carter Woodson (1903)—were the focus of a celebration that preceded a convocation by John Fleming, '66, director of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati (p. 28).

Alumni events coordinator Jacqui Greene, '93, offers us her insight into what it means to be an Appalachian and how she has embraced her heritage (p. 6).

This issue also brings to a close my time in Berea. I leave it with many fond memories of my colleagues; of the friends and alumni correspondents who have written me with advice, story ideas, and congratulations; and of my brilliant, hard-working, award-winning, and fun-loving student photographers and writers. I leave with a sense of having grown attached to this place that is rich in history and vibrant with possibility.

It is time to begin to write the next chapter of my life—to finish a book and to establish the PenHouse Retreat Center for contemplative writing and study. Know that it has been my pleasure these five years to shepherd into print your Berea stories.



Aaron Gillmour, '12

Normandi Ellis

BEREA COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Normandi Ellis, **Editor**

William A. Laramee, **Vice President,
Alumni and College Relations**

Timothy W. Jordan, '76,
Director, Public Relations

Mae Suramek, '95,
Director, Alumni Relations

Correspondence and Reprints

If you have comments, questions, or suggestions for the *Berea College Magazine*, or would like information about reprinting any article appearing in the magazine, please contact:

Editor, *Berea College Magazine*
Berea College
CPO 2142
Berea KY 40404

or e-mail publicrelations@bereda.edu

Berea College Magazine (ISSN 1539-7394) is published quarterly for Berea College alumni and friends by the Berea College Public Relations Department.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to the Berea College Office of Alumni Relations, CPO 2203, Berea, KY 40404.

Berea College is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization under federal guidelines.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Web: www.bereda.edu
E-mail: mae_suramek@bereda.edu
Mail: CPO 2203
Berea, KY 40404
Phone: 859.985.3104
Toll free: 1.866.804.0591
Fax: 859.985.3178



Rolland Enviro 100 Recycled Content: 100% post consumer

ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS Compared to its virgin equivalent

112 Trees	67,294 Gal. Water	15,656 Lb. Air Emissions	7,130 Lb. Solid Waste
--------------	----------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------

It's the equivalent of
Trees: 2.3 football fields
Water: A shower of 14.2 days
Air emissions: Emissions of 1.4 cars/year



The Writing Life: An Interview with C.E. Morgan

● **Berea College Magazine:** What made you believe that one day you would write?

C.E. Morgan, '02: The day that I learned to read when I was seven years old, I knew I would be a writer. That never changed.

● **BCM:** Describe how you developed as a writer.

Morgan: I began reading very passionately as a young child and never stopped—as my understanding of literature developed, my technical ability as a writer followed suit. That process makes a certain kind of sense; as you divine and analyze the how's and why's of a text, you carry that understanding into your own work. In other words, by learning how other writers construct meaning and emotion in their work, you learn how to construct it in your own work.

So, close reading and rereading was the key to my growth as a writer—and I owe much of that ability to my (Berea) English professor, Gene Startzman, who is a rigorous reader himself.

I didn't read much serious criticism until I was in graduate school, which was probably an aid: I was wrestling with the texts on my own, or within the context of class discussion. I value literary criticism now, and read it fairly frequently, but I think having an early engagement with texts without the crutch of criticism is invaluable. It develops independent thought and artistic autonomy, two things which are indispensable to the artist.

● **BCM:** Who is your ideal reader?

Morgan: I think the ideal reader for my work would be someone as interested in ethics as they are in poetry; sensitive to the religious life but more curious than dogmatic—someone trained in a number of disciplines, not just literature. I admire a reader who is generous and thoughtful with a text, slow to judgment, and eager for aesthetic departures.

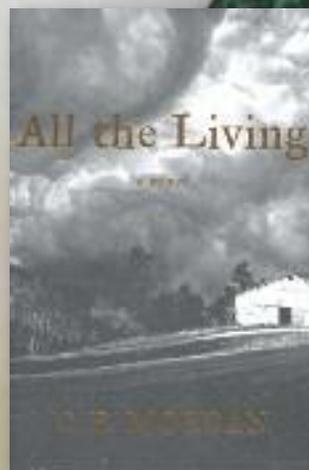
A good reader is a re-reader, someone willing to do the hard work of wrangling with meaning, or the multiplicity of meanings possible in a work. The best readers have trained themselves through careful reading to look between the lines, to intuit; they're emotionally sharp. A lot of these qualities are ones you would want in an interpersonal encounter; they're fundamentally generous. To my mind, literature—the novel—is a very intimate seat of human consciousness; how a person approaches a novel can be very telling.

● **BCM:** The first book poured out in two weeks. Where did that voice come from?

Morgan: I can't make any definitive claims about where the narrative voice in *All the Living* came from. There was almost a kinesthetic sense of the book being poured into my mind, but at the biological level, it's probably a matter of the frontal, logical mind being stilled or fatigued enough to permit material to bubble up from those parts of the mind—often inaccessible outside of dreaming—where image, sound, and memory reside. I think any number of things can break through, so to speak, the wall of logos: grief, trauma, drunkenness, meditation, or a certain kind of stillness and receptivity.

And dreaming, of course.

C.E. Morgan's first novel, *All the Living* (Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2009) received rave reviews from national media. It recently won the Weatherford Award for Appalachian Literature, was named one of the "5 under 35" by the National Book Foundation, and was a finalist for the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award. The next issue of *Appalachian Heritage* magazine is devoted to Morgan's breakthrough novel.



The Mountains – They Are Callin’

BY JACQUELINE J. GREENE, '93

I grew up in Bell County, Kentucky, and all I ever wanted to do was get as far away from Kentucky as possible. I played in the mountains and the Kentucky River, but all I thought about was growing up and moving to a big city. A big city is where I believed I belonged. I don't really know the reason I wanted to leave so much. My family and friends always seemed perfectly content being there. I was never told in school that I needed to get away, and I never felt ashamed of where I grew up. However, from an early age, I never felt that I belonged to that culture.

I couldn't wait until it was time to apply to colleges, because I desperately wanted to live out of state. I applied to colleges in New Mexico, California, and Texas. Because of the high cost of out-of-state tuition, I chose to attend the University of Kentucky, knowing that even with in-state tuition I would have to take out student loans to cover the cost. It was not my first choice, but at least it was a university that would eventually facilitate leaving Kentucky.

Because of my financial situation, my guidance counselor suggested a place that wasn't familiar to me. That place was Berea College. Ironically, the small campus appealed to me. I thought it would be great to be in smaller classes with more individual attention available. After hearing about Berea, I knew it was the right place for me.

Almost fifteen years after graduating from Berea College, I was given the opportunity to apply for a position there. Although I had never thought about working at the College before, I jumped at the chance to give back to the institution that had given me so much. I was very excited when I was offered the position of alumni events coordinator at the College, but a part of me felt a bit perplexed about why I seemed to be moving backwards.

After working for one year at the College, I signed up to attend the 2007 Appalachian Tour and Seminar for faculty and staff. The tour provides staff and faculty a chance to get to know one another and to learn more about the Appalachian culture in Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Virginia.

The first stop on our tour was meeting Daymon Morgan in Leslie County, Kentucky, to discuss mountaintop removal issues. This part of the tour had a tremendous impact on me. Listening to Morgan tell his story brought back vivid memories of my childhood. I remembered playing out in my yard when small rocks started falling on me from the sky. The coal mining companies were blasting out the mountain near the highway above our home, and debris was coming down everywhere.

Another thing that occurred to me as Morgan talked was how much my hometown has changed because of mountaintop removal. It saddens me to see how many mountains have lost

their beautiful lushness and now just look desolate. Growing up, the mountains surrounding us were plush with beautiful trees, and were so alive. Many of the mountaintops have now been ravaged of their beauty and look barren. They are no longer inviting, but are stark and cold. Those mountains will never be the same.

I was brought back to memories of my childhood home when we hiked the Lilley Cornett Woods in Letcher County, Kentucky. I grew up surrounded by the mountains and played in them almost every day. I didn't realize how connected I was to the mountains until that hike. Lilley Cornett was very reminiscent of the mountains from my childhood. They were natural and undamaged by the ravages of man and machine.

I was fortunate to have grown up surrounded by all that beauty and with the mountains as my playground. Back then, it never occurred to me that many people lived in places where there were no mountains. Until that moment in Lilley Cornett Woods, I never really knew that I had grown up in a very special and unique place.

While hiking in the mountains, a colleague asked me why anyone would feel such a connection to the mountains. Being there was like returning home and gave me a feeling of belonging and security. It was like finding shelter from a storm, and it took me back to a more innocent time. It was as if there had been some magnetic pull between me and the mountains. I realized maybe the mountains had been calling to me all along.

During my childhood, I believed it was a mistake that I was living surrounded by mountains in Kentucky. Dr. Wayne Dyer states, "In a universe that's an intelligent system with a divine creative force supporting it, there simply can be no accidents." I believe this to be true, and it was no accident I was born and raised in Appalachia. I have the privilege of being from the mountains, but not totally of the mountains.

My connection with the College and my reconnection to my Appalachian past have made Berea my home. It is a place where I feel comfortable and where I fit. I finally have a sense of belonging I couldn't have gotten anywhere else.

Will I ever grow to have a penchant for Southern cooking and bluegrass music? I probably won't, because at the end of the day I am who I am. I am the person created by my own unique personality and all the experiences I have had in my life. I hover somewhere between my love for the mountains and my love of fashion and classical music. We are all unique individuals and we define who we are—not negative stereotypes in movies or documentaries. I am still growing and ever-changing, but one thing always remains the same—I am proud to say I was born and raised in Appalachia.



Ray Davis '11

I was fortunate to have grown up surrounded by all that beauty and with the mountains as my playground. Back then, it never occurred to me that many people lived in places where there were no mountains. Until that moment in Lilley Cornett Woods, I never really knew that I had grown up in a very special and unique place.

The 2010 Appalachian Tour for Berea faculty and staff will be held August 4-11.



Dr. Janice Blythe



Steve Duckett, '89



Ashley Williams (Director of Consumer Information with the NC Cattlemen's Beef Council), and Carmen Long, '86, cooking together during an Extension Office program

Extension Agents Exten

MORGAN SMITH, '12

Berea College has a longstanding reputation of effecting positive change in the Appalachian region. It is no surprise then, says Janice Blythe, professor of Child and Family Studies, that many Berea College graduates go on to become part of what she calls one of the best-kept secrets in the country—cooperative extension work.

The federal Cooperative Extension System is designed to improve quality of life by providing useful, practical, and research-based information to agricultural producers, small business owners, youth, consumers, and others in rural areas and communities. To accomplish a widespread dissemination of knowledge, cooperative extensions operate through the land-grant universities in each state. The individual states set up different county offices staffed by extension agents. It is through this infrastructure that extension services have paved the way for positive changes like bringing more women into agriculture, not only in production roles, but also as industry leaders. Extension agents have also been instrumental in establishing and coordinating local food infrastructure in different states.



Monroe Gilmour

Steve Duckett, '89

The recent financial crisis that has gripped the country has likewise affected extension services. **Steve Duckett, '89, extension director in Buncombe County, North Carolina, says that funding levels are the most challenging he has seen in his 18 years with Extension.** Rather than being discouraged by these economic issues, agents have instead looked at new ways to improve the quality of life in their communities.



Carmen Long, '86

As a family and consumer sciences extension agent for Surry County, North Carolina, for more than two decades, Carmen Long, '86, recently noticed changes in the way people participate in extension activities. One program, "Summer Explosion," offers several different day camps, workshops, and overnight activities for children. In past years, classes in horseback riding and canoeing have been the first to fill. This year, however, "Fit and Fun Day," designed to promote a healthy active lifestyle, was the most popular program.

"I think that parents are more aware that kids need the opportunity to learn how to take better care of themselves," says Carmen. Parents are interested not only in helping their children learn healthy habits, but in learning how they themselves can be healthier, too. Weight management classes have always been popular, but programs that focus on principles like basic cooking and nutrition have grown. In fact, North Carolina State University recently developed a basic cooking program, the first Carmen has seen in her 22 years with the extension service. "People really want to get back to the basics. They are interested in eating locally. They want to know where their food comes from and how it is grown."



Steve Patton

Renata Farmer, '02

Renata Farmer, '02, 4-H agent for Knox County, Kentucky, also sees a movement back toward the basics in her county. She often fields



Renata Farmer, '02, teaches third graders at West Knox Elementary School healthy exercise using popular dances.



Brandy Brabham, '00, representing the West Virginia University Extension Service in Calhoun County.

d a Hand in Appalachia

questions on home gardening and food preservation because people are growing their own food to improve health and save money. To assist families with these goals, Knox County Extension Service sends a monthly newsletter called *Penny Pincher Press* to the families of 4-H participants. *Penny Pincher Press* is filled with research-based information for inexpensive projects such as mask making with kids; healthy, low-cost recipes; and tips for saving energy.

Steve worked on basic food issues in his county as well. In January he announced that, despite recent increases in local food interest, only 1% of the food consumed in Buncombe County comes from western North Carolina. If enough food could be produced to meet the demands of consumers in that area, as much as \$452 million in revenue would return to the local economy. Increasing that number is a complex project that requires developing enough of the right products in addition to creating a well-developed infrastructure for getting those products to the public. Despite these challenges, Steve is committed to increasing the availability of local food with programs ranging from farm production workshops to urban horticulture programs.

Trying to meet the needs in a community is difficult enough. Having graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture with a degree in animal science with an emphasis on nutrition, Janice has witnessed Extension's efforts up close. To their credit, Janice says, extension agents understand not only the needs in their communities, but what the community wants. "Extension agents really have their fingers on the pulse of their communities," she says. Staying in tune with the wants and needs of complex and diverse communities requires a great deal of creativity. New technologies have been instrumental in developing creative ways to continue the mission of the extension

service. When he began his career with Extension, Steve says, word processors were the norm and the one computer located in the office ran the budget program on five-inch floppy disks. Since the explosion of the Internet, extension agents have become more information interpreters than information providers. This technology has allowed faster communication with community members and better program advertisements. Steve sees a shift toward a more home-based model of extension due to the increased availability and affordability of technology to help agents make connections with their communities.



LeAnna Kaiser, '12

Brandy Brabham, '00

Brandy Brabham, '00, agriculture agent for Roane and Calhoun counties in West Virginia, found her own solution to staying connected to her community. After graduating from Berea, Brandy worked in extension while she completed her master's degree in communication from West Virginia University. Then she changed jobs and worked for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture as a statistical assistant. While she enjoyed the work and the travel that came along with it, she began to feel disconnected from her community. Thus, she returned to extension work.

"It was an hour drive to work from the community I lived in to my job. I didn't have those day-to-day interactions with people. If you don't know what your neighbor is going through, you can't be a good neighbor," says Brandy. "It takes us all to make our community strong, not just one individual. One individual can make things better, though, and that's what I try to do. Extension gives me a way to do that."

“Swarping”

with the Best of Them

LIBBY KAHLER '11



Normandi Ellis

Mike Mullins, '71

Hidden in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, the Hindman Settlement School sits in a valley shrouded in kudzu and defined by the boundaries of Troublesome Creek. If you've come for the Appalachian Writers Workshop, your first stop is the office of Mike Mullins, '71, director of the school and guiding force behind the workshops since 1977. Don't be nervous. The staff will get to know you over a supper of soup beans and cornbread, and Mike will make sure you find your way around. After all, his hand-drawn map of the area brought you this far.

The atmosphere of community at Hindman is especially obvious in mid-August, during the week of the writing workshop. Returning staff and participants renew bonds, while newcomers are welcomed with humor and kindness. Attendees and staff sit together over meals and work elbow-to-elbow in the kitchen washing dishes, and talk on the porch long into the night—sometimes into morning. Many of the writing instructors were once attendees themselves, including Silas House, Karen



Loyal Jones and Mike Mullins wash dishes together at the Hindman Settlement School in 1991.

McElmurray, '80, and Sydney Saylor Farr, '80, among others. Over the years, many illustrious Appalachian writers have shared with the 80–85 participants their expertise, jokes, writing, and personal stories on the porch during “swarping” time—a low-key, back-porch opportunity for conversation, high spirits, and singing. Although the workshop draws staff and students from all over the country, and sometimes from around the globe, Appalachian literature is the purpose of and motivation for the workshop.

While he was a student majoring in history at Berea, Mike “fell into” a brand new class called “Appalachian Studies” taught by recent hire, Loyal Jones, '54. Jones would become the first director of the College's Appalachian Center, which now bears his name. For Mike, attending a class geared specifically to study Appalachia was an exciting experience. “That course was pivotal in my life in that I realized I had a history,” he said. “I realized I had a literature. I realized I had a separate culture.”

Loyal introduced his students to such Appalachian authors as John Fetterman, (*Stinking Creek*), and Harriette Simpson Arnow, Cx '28 (*The Dollmaker*). The exposure to voices and stories similar to his own gave Mike a new appreciation for his home and fed a growing inner resistance to the forces at work in



Mike Mullins talks with participants in a July 2007 writers workshop at the Hindman Settlement School.



Herb E. Smith (co-founder of Appalshop), Harriette Simpson Arnow, and Mike Mullins.

Appalachia that were destroying mountains, people, and culture. This destruction was something Mike had grown up with and accepted to some extent. He gives Loyal credit for “igniting something inside me that said, ‘I’m not going to take it anymore.’”

After completing his master’s degree in American history at the University of Cincinnati, Mike accepted a position at Alice Lloyd College, where he was assigned to teach an Appalachian history course. When he protested that he’d never taken an Appalachian history course himself, the director told him, “No one else has, either.” Mike launched into the project, soon expanding to teach classes on Appalachian literature as well as history. He wasn’t alone, however. Poets, authors, and pioneers of Appalachian studies and literature had already begun the movement toward understanding, preserving,

and promoting Appalachian heritage writers. Two of the foremost among these, Jim Wayne Miller, '58, and James Still, would become contributing instructors and central personalities of the workshops at Hindman Settlement School.

After just one visit to the settlement school, Mike knew he wanted to be a part of the struggling institution. When, one year later, he was invited to become the director, he packed to leave Alice Lloyd College and, with his wife and daughter, moved to Hindman. Mike’s first experiences as director involved more leaking pipes, flooded ditches, and familiarity with a shovel



Jim Wayne Miller jokes with Bill Best and Loyal Jones in 1986.

than he might have expected. His hard physical labor to improve the school buildings, some built at its inception in 1902, expanded into dedicated fundraising and lobbying for changes that reignited community interest and participation in the School. The main program of the School creates several much-needed learning opportunities for dyslexic students; including an after-school program, summer school, and reading labs with three Knott County Public Schools. The School also works with the teachers and parents of dyslexic students to help them create an environment where learning differences are understood and students' opportunities for academic achievement can be maximized.

The summer before Mike began as director, Al Stewart, '36, member of the Hindman Settlement School board of directors, had begun a writers workshop week and a folk life week. Both were under-attended, but Mike recognized their potential, and he worked with Al for the next four years to

improve the participation and focus of the events. When Al moved on after the fifth workshop, Mike was on his own, fine-tuning both the staff and the goals of the workshop.

Among those who became staff members was Harriette Simpson Arnow, whose work Mike had discovered in Loyal Jones' class. Jim Wayne Miller became, Mike says, "the heart and soul" of the weeklong workshops. James Still, Kentucky poet laureate



Mike Mullins and James Still.

and author of *River of Earth*, among other works, lived most of his last 25 years on the Settlement campus. Mike says he "added a presence to this gathering that will never be duplicated." The late Jim Wayne Miller is remembered by many for his unflinching wit and presence at "swarming time," his dedication to the field of Appalachian studies, his support of fellow writers, and not least, for his brilliant and original poetry. Says author Robert Morgan of Jim Wayne Miller's works, including *Copperhead Cane* and *Briar: His Book*, "No one has been able to better describe and enact the sense of loss and the paradoxes of identity in the mountains."

When the workshop seemed to draw more onlookers than writers, Mike changed the policy to require participants to submit a manuscript. Interest became so great that, currently, would-be participants may send in a manuscript in one of four genres—fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or playwriting. Workshop leaders review the submissions and choose their students; others are put on the waiting list. There are no prima donnas at the workshop—unless, Mike jokes, it's himself. Mostly, he sees his role during the week as a background one. "I like for the staff and the participants to come here and then take ownership," he says. "All I do is make sure they're fed, the commodes work, and the water is running."



Students, including Libby Jones (r) of Berea College, work on assignments during the 2009 Appalachian Writers Workshop.

Actually, he prepares all year for the event, reviewing feedback from staff and participants to keep improving the workshop—improvements that have paid off for many. When asked how many participants have gone on to publish, Mike replies, "dozens and dozens."

Sidney Saylor Farr discovered the workshop series while attending Berea College as a nontraditional student. As a returning native to the region, Farr found that the Appalachian



Silas House coaches a student at the 2009 Appalachian Writers Workshop.

voices and stories of the workshop's participants encouraged her to rejoin a community that she had been taught to disregard. Having come home again, she hasn't left since. She became the editor of *Appalachian Heritage* in 1985, and for 14 years promoted Appalachian authors, some of whom also attended the writing workshops in Hindman. "I came to the workshops at

Hindman Settlement School hoping to learn how to write in a way that would please the outside world," she says. "The workshops instead gave me the courage to write about what I knew best—people, places, social actions, and nature. The mountains nurtured me and taught me just about everything I needed to know. My people taught me the rest."

Workshop participants appreciate the same things Sidney found there—they gain the opportunity to experience a place and environment that accepts them and values their stories. The chance to discover their heritage and learn from its literature, both modern and historic, creates a place in Hindman that many of them say feels like home.

As for Mike's reward, he says, "I wanted to be part of something that gave back to the region rather than taking from it. Being part of the Hindman Settlement School has given me that opportunity."

Tom Eblen, Lexington Herald Leader

Tom Eblen, Lexington Herald Leader

Karen McElmurray:

Hearing What the Heart Says

MEGAN SMITH, '11

Berea students, professors, and staff gather around a wide oak table, light glinting off its glossy surface. The seats are filled and some individuals are left sitting along the wall in the Draper Hall conference room. Karen McElmurray, '80, associate professor of English at Georgia College and State University, is leading a workshop on fiction writing co-sponsored by the English, Theater, and Speech Communications Department, the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, and the Learning Center.

“What is a moment of light or awareness?” she asks. “Begin a scene that is about such a moment.” Pencils go to town as attendees scratch in their notebooks. She tells us to draw our writing to a close, and I scramble to get those last few words on the page. Written in large red letters on the board is a quote by Dorothy Allison: “Until you are willing to go there, to the difficult places, your writing won’t be worth a damn.” Our sketches about light suddenly make sense.

Karen is the author of both fiction and nonfiction (*Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven*, University of Georgia Press, 2004; *The Motel of the Stars*, Sarabande Books, 2008; and *Surrendered*

Child: A Birthmother’s Journey, University of Georgia Press, 2004). Upon graduation from Berea College, Karen entered the graduate program in fiction writing at the University of Virginia, where she started penning a draft of her debut novel *Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven*. That draft and some personal essays she’d written about her relationship to her own mother and giving up a child for adoption were reviewed by novelist Lee Smith (*On Agate Hill*, 2006). Although Lee liked her work, she asked Karen why she wasn’t writing a memoir.

“Even when we completely make something up,” says Karen, “there is some part of memory that we don’t even know



Aaron Olinour '12

that resides in the situation.” In her novel, part of the story is about a woman who, during the Great Depression, runs away to be a dance instructor for a traveling road show sponsored by the Works Progress Administration. She leaves her daughter behind. “That mother who relinquishes a child was the real story of my own life, told ‘slant’ in fiction,” says Karen.

At age sixteen Karen gave birth to a son and gave him to an adoption agency. Twenty-five years later Karen suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, dreaming about her son and trying to recall the day she gave birth. Feeling pangs in her womb, Karen says, “My body told me I had to do this, I had to remember.”

With a residency at the Hambidge Center in Rabun Gap, Georgia, Karen was able to write for ten hours a day. Digging into her darkest memories, Karen was also led to reflect on the emotional abuse she experienced as a child. She says the more she wrote, the more she healed. Karen compares this time to a metaphor by Plato, “The Allegory of the Cave.”

Karen had to ascend from the dark cave of her past in order to find what she calls light. “In writing this memoir, *Surrendered Child*, I hope that what I’ve done is reclaim my memories, bring them up into the world of light, make giving birth a reality,” says Karen. “Often birth mothers surrender children and are urged to forget about the past, surrender memory as well as their babies.” She hopes that her work encourages other women to claim their own voices, too.

In her workshop she talks with students about what light is. She squiggles a list in red marker on the board: “awareness, consciousness, understanding mystery, enlightenment, moments of being, heart, and revelation.” Karen says, “Although fiction is not absolutely true, it must have some truth of the human experience in it.”

“I hope that writing memoir has pushed me deeper into ideas about emotional truth, the need to contact souls, spirit, the need to ask hard questions about my life, about the world,” says Karen. When she turned back to fiction with her novel *Motel of the Stars*, Karen found it easier to shape the work in terms of characterization and structure. She says going deeper into her own life has taken her deeper into the lives of her characters and the genre of fiction. More importantly, writing her memoir allowed her birth son to find her. Before the book was published, he found her on a website that discussed it and contacted her.

For Karen, writing is a spiritual path that she says helps her connect with something greater than herself. It leads her to find truths in the human experience in which everyone can relate. “I think of art and writing as a way to give voice to spirit and to our own spirit,” says Karen. “I see it as a vehicle for and embodiment of the human spirit.”

Because Karen grew up in a restrictive childhood, writing became a source of sustenance. She was first inspired to write during one of her annual summer trips to Johnson County to visit “Granny Salyer,” where Karen was introduced to Vicky Hayes, Cx’74, ’99. Reading poetry to her and playing a six-string guitar, Vicky became Karen’s idol and friend. Not being able to paint or play an instrument, Karen took to writing poetry, too. Karen says those summers were the times that she came alive.

Coming to Berea College was another time when Karen says she came alive. Both bright girls from small towns with limited funding, Karen followed Vicky in her choice to attend Berea College. Karen continued to pursue poetry as an English literature major. She credits her English professors Richard Sears and Carol Gesner and her philosophy professor James Holloway with having a profound impact on her as a writer. With



Karen (center) is flanked by a room full of aspiring student writers, anxious to share and improve their craft.

Ray Davis '11

the help of the late William Schafer, professor of English, Karen was able to study poetry independently. Karen says, "I can still hear him asking me about the word 'man' in the final line of a poem. 'Mankind? Particular men?'" A double major in philosophy and English literature, Karen credits philosophy professor John Walhauser with helping her to believe in the sheer power of thought itself.

But Karen says, "It was the whole package that shaped me as a younger student. Berea, the town, the community, the place itself, was an experience I have yet to recapture." Karen learned the value of labor as she made toys in Woodcraft and worked in the garden raising tomatoes. She experienced joy in hiking the Pinnacles and Sunday afternoon potlucks. Calling herself "a young hippie" in a town with like-minded spirits, Karen fell in love with the community as they created music and pottery and poetry. She describes it as a magical time—a time that she still savors and loves.

After three years of working as an adjunct professor and taking supplemental part-time jobs to get by, Karen went back to graduate school and eventually earned a doctorate in creative writing at the University of Georgia. She now serves as associate professor of English at Georgia College and State University, where she is creative nonfiction editor of the literary magazine *Arts and Letters*. In addition to her work in academia, Karen does numerous workshops and readings throughout the country. In Kentucky, she has taught at the Appalachian Writers Workshop in Hindman, at the Kentucky Retreat for Women Writers in Owensboro, and at Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning in Lexington.

Her busy teaching and professional life were interrupted three years ago with a diagnosis of colon cancer, but she chose to see the illness as her own moment of light—as a gift of awareness as much as illness. In remission for three years now, Karen

decided to take this past year off from teaching. "I've always had this feeling that I need to keep getting more and more security," she said, "but really security is here in the heart, and my heart cannot be still, truly, until I say that 'writing comes first.'"

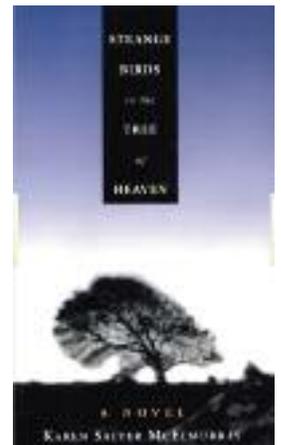
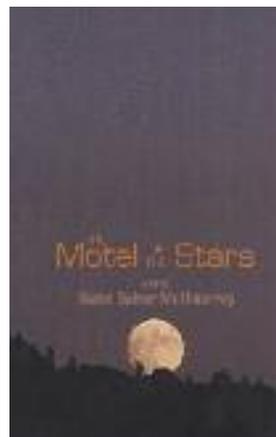
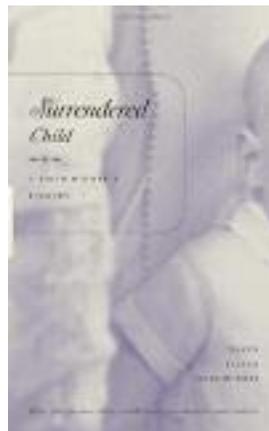
Currently Karen has written 237 pages of a new novel tentatively called *Wanting Inez*. The main character is a girl named Waydean Loving who grows up under the care of her sister, Ruby, who is a fortune teller. Waydean later leaves her sister to pursue her own life on the road. For a while she works for a version of Ripley's Freak Museum called Willy's Wonderama. Karen says, "It's about being out of place and out of time. It's about being a freak in your family and in your job—and eventually understanding your own ghosts." In the future, Karen also wants to write about and bring light to the experience of having cancer.

Karen has received numerous writing awards. *Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven* received the 2001 Lillie D. Chaffin Award for Appalachian Writing. *Surrendered Child: A Birthmother's Journey* won the Association of Writers & Writing Program's Prize for Creative Nonfiction. Other honors include a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, the Sherwood Anderson Award, the James Purdy Prize for Fiction, and the 2005 Georgia Author of the Year Award. Her newest published work, a novel called *The Motel of the Stars*, was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award and an Editor's Pick for *Oxford American*.

In the Draper Hall conference room, the pencils stop scratching. "Who would like to share their writing?" asks Karen. There is some hesitation, but upon Karen's encouragement, words and moments of awareness, mystery, epiphany, and being are shared—moments of light.



Karen McMurray, '80, signs copies of her book *Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven*.



Vicky Hayes – A Compelling Ap

BY RACHEL DORROH, JANET GOODING, '09,
ANNA STUKENBERG, '12

“I hope this is going to be the year that I publish something substantial,” says Vicky Hayes, '99. “I hope.”

Although Vicky’s novel, *Wake Up, Little Maggie* grew out of her recent thesis at Appalachian State University (ASU), one could argue that she’s been working on it for most of her life.

As an eleven-year-old girl in Hager Hill, Kentucky, Vicky developed what she calls a “huge interest in literature.”

Warmed by the coal stove in her two-room school, Vicky spent much of her days reading while the other grades were in class. Imaginative and nature-loving, she enjoyed books such as *Wuthering Heights*, but

something was missing. It was not until she attended the Hindman Writers Workshop that she discovered what it was.

Surrounded by Harriet Arnow, Cx '28, Jim Wayne Miller, '58, and James Still, Vicky encountered writing centered in the Appalachian Mountains for the first time. She recognized the speech patterns, the focus on family ties, the pull between the traditional and the contemporary, and even a hint of familiar music. She saw herself and the people she knew, finally, fully, in books.

At that time, what Vicky calls “that British fiction or New York fiction mode” still reigned over the publishing world. It was hard for regional authors to get published, but she knew that for her work to be authentic, she had to stop imitating the books she had grown up with and find her true voice. To do this, she had to learn more about where she was from and then express it in the written word.

She began with an internship in Knott County, Kentucky, in 1977. Here, Vicky investigated how history, environment, and industry in eastern Kentucky were interrelated and how residents were affected. She reported for a small weekly newspaper and carried forward a desire to address political and environmental issues in Appalachia.

From there, her love and concern for the region led her to teach at the David School in David, Kentucky; to study at Appalachian State University (ASU) for a year; and to continue journalism. She also wrote and performed music influenced by traditional Appalachian forms and began publishing her



Ray Davis, '11

Appalachian Voice

poetry and nonfiction. Her work has been included in multiple books featuring regional writing and has appeared in *Appalachian Journal*, *Kentucky Monthly*, *Mountain Life and Work*, and *Mountain Review*.

In 1999, Vicky and her husband, Clarence, whom she met at the College in 1971, decided to come back to Berea. “We wanted to finish what we started,” Vicky says. She had been an English major with a creative writing focus before she took a break from school during her senior year. Now that she knew she could write in her own voice and had amassed a wealth of life experience from which she could draw, she was ready to finish her degree. At about this time, she began writing fiction.

During the next ten years, Vicky drafted several novels while advancing her education and career. She finished her bachelor’s in English at Berea, obtained a master’s degree in Appalachian Studies from ASU, and then returned to Berea to work as the program coordinator of the College’s Learning Center.

“It’s tremendously daunting,” Vicky says of writing a novel. “I don’t know why anyone would do it,” she laughs. She explains that it takes a lot of time to put all the elements of fiction together effectively. Making connections with other writers has helped.

In 2008, Vicky applied to the highly competitive Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, using a draft of *Wake Up, Little Maggie* as her writing sample. When she was accepted, the College funded her attendance. There, she received enthusiastic feedback and was introduced to agents and publishers. She took the novel on to the equally prestigious Sewanee Writers Conference in 2009 and received valuable advice on how to restructure it.

Set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, *Wake Up, Little Maggie* explores Appalachian identity through the fictionalized story of Mary Jane Brooks. For her thesis at ASU, Vicky studied the life of this gifted writer and passionate advocate for mountain people. Vicky read Brooks’ work, researched her genealogy and family history, and interviewed people who knew her. The novel that grew out of this research reflects a deep awareness of Brooks’ environment and community.

One chapter begins with a description of a locale similar to Vicky’s own origins: “At long intervals, vehicles rattled down the gravel road. A line of dust rose atop the trees. That is the only thing that moved on the mountain. Dust.”

In writing about her native region, Vicky defines herself and her home in her own words, thereby dispelling harmful stereotypes. She learned about the often-negative perception of her culture when she lived



Aaron Gilmour, '12

Vicky Hayes writes during a gathering of Berea’s campus writing group—where faculty, staff, and students meet to practice their craft.

briefly in Ohio as a young girl. “People made fun of my accent,” she says, “and called me a hillbilly and all those other things.” She explains that non-standard English, or dialect, is often interpreted as lack of intelligence and that it has “been that way through time.”

However, the pronunciation and word choices that distinguish one variation of English from another are actually remnants of older forms of the language. Thus, dialect preserves heritage. Like a strong root system, Vicky’s culture grounds and nourishes her. “In the mountains,” she says, “we have such a strong sense of identity, of who we are, that we are not lost. We might be set upon by a number of outside forces, but we aren’t really lost.”

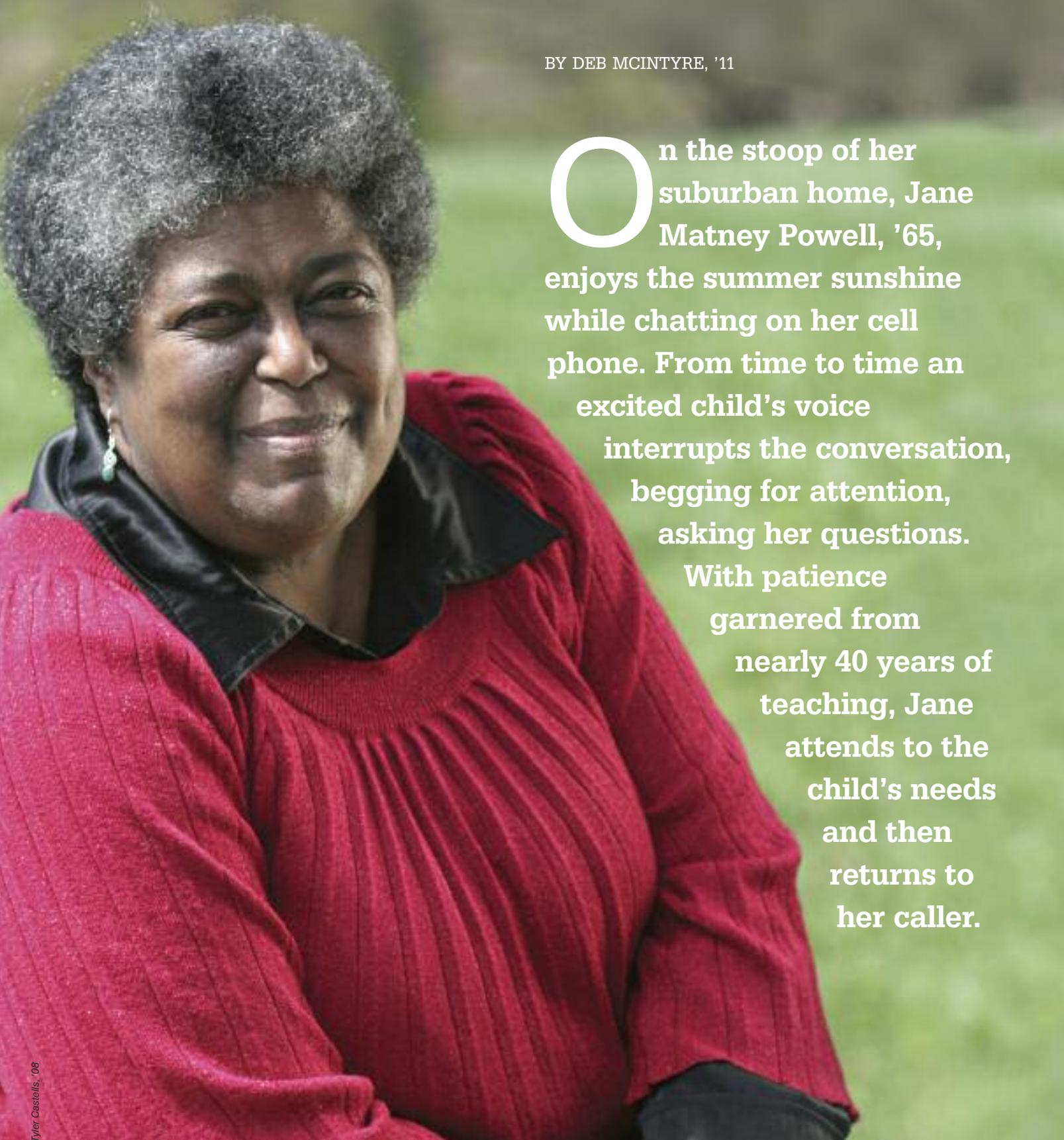
Although Vicky describes all of her writing as regional and is clearly proud of her home, she doesn’t want to romanticize her life growing up in Appalachia. **“There was much that was beautiful about it and much that was very difficult—particularly economically. Appalachia has its dark and light side. In fact, the extremes are what created my love for literature.”**

While Vicky waits for an opportunity to add her novel to the public discourse on Appalachia, she guides student writers at Berea College. At the Learning Center, she creates a supportive atmosphere similar to Hindman and regional conferences, where students can exchange ideas with peers and find their authentic voices as writers and individuals. “I understand writing holistically,” she says, “how it works in a person’s life, not just in a classroom.”

Colin Cloud, '10, a student in Vicky’s College composition course, testifies to the power of Vicky’s mentorship. “She is the type of woman who makes learning an endless search, whether it is academics or self-realization,” he says. “She is why Berea is a special place.”

She Taught Lessons

BY DEB MCINTYRE, '11



On the stoop of her suburban home, Jane Matney Powell, '65, enjoys the summer sunshine while chatting on her cell phone. From time to time an excited child's voice interrupts the conversation, begging for attention, asking her questions. With patience garnered from nearly 40 years of teaching, Jane attends to the child's needs and then returns to her caller.

for Life

Jane lived most of her life in Ohio, but her heart still lies in a tiny town along the Big Sandy River. Jane's great-grandfather, a former slave, chose to settle in Fort Gay, West Virginia, across the river from Louisa, Kentucky. "His father called him in shortly after the end of the Civil War and said, 'Son, you've got to take your family out of here. I'm getting old, but my family will never let you inherit this farm.'" With the wagon, farm tools, and the bit of money his father gave him, the young man headed west with his wife and children.

Why the family separation? Because Jane's great-great-grandfather was a white farmer who lived in the mountains of western Virginia. Her great-great-grandmother was a runaway slave (according to family lore) from western North Carolina. She'd found shelter on that isolated farm and later died in childbirth. The farmer raised his son and taught him to farm along with six other runaways whom he passed off as his slaves.

More than 80 years later, when Jane was born, her extended family was sprinkled throughout the area where the Tug Fork in West Virginia and the Levisa Fork in Kentucky converge to form the Big Sandy River. All the blacks in the area were distantly related, most migrating from the same area of Virginia. Fort Gay's population totaled about 800 during Jane's childhood and remains the same size today. Her high school enrolled about 250 students in grades 7-12. Most people worked

for the railroad or coal mines. The power company employed Jane's father. The youngest of three children, Jane was homeschooled by her stepmother until age 11.

"I can't remember any point in my life when somebody wasn't teaching me something," she says. Jane learned math concepts at age four from her grandfather, a man born in 1865. "In those days you lived close to your family and the older members spent a lot of time with the children." She read "anything and everything I could get my hands on." Her grandmother and mother, both

former teachers, and other family members kept a wide variety of books throughout the house. "If I was acting especially antsy, my grandmother would say, 'Well, go find you a book to read!'" All that reading rubbed off. Jane decided she wanted to be a writer and became a voluntary stringer for the former *Huntington Herald Advertiser*.



Jane Matney Powell's senior picture in The Chimes.

When it came time to choose a college, Berea appealed to her because of its association with Carter G. Woodson (1903), the father of black history. "He is a significant person, especially in the black community—someone to be respected and admired. The fact that he went to Berea was the icing on the cake."

When she enrolled, African Americans had begun returning to campus a decade earlier, after the repeal of the Day Law. About 120 blacks attended Berea in the early 1960s at the height of the civil rights movement, led by Martin Luther King, Jr. During her senior year, Jane and other Berea College representatives participated in the final leg of King's march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to protest restrictions on black voters.

She spent more than three years honing her writing skills while reporting for *The Berea Citizen*, which was then published by the College. "The experiences at Berea were very important to the person I grew into. I'm glad I didn't go anywhere else. The other places I've gone—none of them compare to the culture at Berea in the '60s. Berea has been an important influence in my life. I wouldn't trade that for anything."



In this family photo, Jane's great grandparents are front and center; her grandfather is standing on the far left; and her mother, Elsie Lizasay, is one of the children on the roof.

After graduation Jane moved to Washington, D.C., where her sisters lived, to find a job that would help pay for graduate studies in journalism. There, she learned of a pilot program called the Cardozo Project in Urban Teaching. The program trained former Peace Corps volunteers and college graduates to teach disadvantaged inner-city youth and earn certification while on the job. It was the model for the National Teacher Corps (NTC), later reestablished as the current Teach for America program.

One key component of the NTC was community involvement, says Jane. Recruits lived in their communities, made contact with the students' families, and got to know them and their problems. "It was a big shock to take a kid out of the mountains and drop her in the middle of Washington, D.C. [It was] like a whole different world. There were some huge cultural differences," says Jane. The years she spent at Berea learning about diverse populations helped to prepare her for some eye-opening experiences.

The first time she walked into a student's apartment, she saw a rat running across the floor. "I couldn't believe it. At home, you'd take a .22 [gauge rifle] and shoot the rat, but urban dwellers had no other way of living. They lived the best they could. I thought I had known poor families at home—and I had—but it was nothing like the urban poverty. It totally blew my mind, and it took a lot of getting used to."

Despite the early shocks, by the time she completed her training, Jane chose to continue teaching. An inner-city D.C. school hired her, and she taught there until 1969. "Because of that experience, I'm able to take a step back, look at people and notice the strength they bring to their living situation," says Jane. Those pivotal years in the late 1960s placed her on a path of service through teaching that she followed for the next four decades.

She taught English and Spanish in inner-city high schools in Toledo and Dayton, Ohio, as well as in a rural school—all while raising seven children, including autistic twin sons. The patience she had learned helped her to meet the challenges of parenting them and their siblings. "God knows exactly who to give special children to," she says. Her faith got her through the death of the twins, both in separate house fires, and keeps her going today as she assists her husband in undergoing kidney dialysis and opens her home to a godson and his family.

Jane spends time writing her memoirs about her mountain family, and she has started a blog at the insistence of her family. "My children got after me. They kept saying, 'Mama, you've got to write this stuff down.'" Her cousins also urge her to continue researching the family's history and genealogy. The last of six generations of her family to live along the Big Sandy River, Jane has no close relatives left in the area. She keeps in touch with a couple of childhood friends through a social networking website and says the years spent in the hills are filled with good memories. Despite being away from the mountains for more than forty years, "It's still home because that's where my roots are."

Over the years Jane has noticed both differences and similarities between the children from the northern cities and



Jane at the Montgomery March memorial in 2005 during a trip with other Bereans to key sites of the civil rights movement in Selma and Montgomery, Alabama.

those from Appalachia. So many of them have seen dreams die within the limits of their experience. "There's a fear of stepping outside. My husband calls it a 'high fear of failure.'" I, on the other hand, think it is because many students don't know how they can pull the resources together to make the outside world work for them." She often had difficulty getting students to sign up for class trips to Mexico or to apply for college because of the fear that support networks would fall through.

More than once she pushed college applications in front of promising students and made them fill them out and follow through to get scholarships. She recalls a particular young, single mother—a brilliant student who lacked family support—who had a good chance for a college scholarship. Jane told her the name of the admissions representative to call, but the teen froze in fear, saying, "I can't do it. I don't have the money [to go to college]."

"I put her on the phone in my classroom and told her to introduce herself and tell them her grade point average." With Jane hovering over her like a mother hen, the girl made the call and, with Jane's help, faxed her high school transcript after hanging up. The young woman got the scholarship and attended the university.

This scenario repeated itself many times during her career. Recently, she was thanked by a former student who had just graduated from medical school.

"You have a lot of kids who don't have any idea that they can make a change in their own lives—that they can have a life different from their parents or grandparents. There are times when you really have to push kids. That's one of the best things that a teacher can do is show a kid how to break the mold. There are so many kids that have the potential but don't know what to do with it."

Normandi Ellis

Building a Better Appalachia

BY LIBBY KAHLER, '11

Among the sketches of houses and nearly illegible scribbles on the classroom marker board, Jason Coomes, Sustainability and Environmental Studies (SENS) professor, has drawn two boxes, heavily outlined and accented by oversized exclamation points. The first exhorts his students to produce “More Work NOW!!!”, and the other contains Jason’s philosophy—oft-repeated, and familiar to all of his students: “Under-promise and over-deliver.”

A professional artist, architect, and Kentucky native, Jason, his wife Michelle, and their son, Jackson, moved to Berea in 2008 so that Jason could accept the Compton Chair of Ecological Design. He came to Berea with a model for student learning that requires real work and gets students’ hands dirty with field experiences.

This is a model Jason first encountered as an undergraduate art major at the University of Kentucky (UK) when Samuel Mockbee of Auburn University gave a talk at the school that gave Jason a new sense of direction. “All of a sudden, I knew exactly what I wanted to do,” said Jason. Mockbee had created a program at Auburn called Rural Studio, an immersion design/build experience for architecture undergraduates. In the program, students design and build with a real budget, work with real clients, and use power tools and heavy machinery to take their designs through construction. “People were sort of shocked that students could go out and learn how to run these machines,” says Jason, “but I think we underestimate what our students can do.”

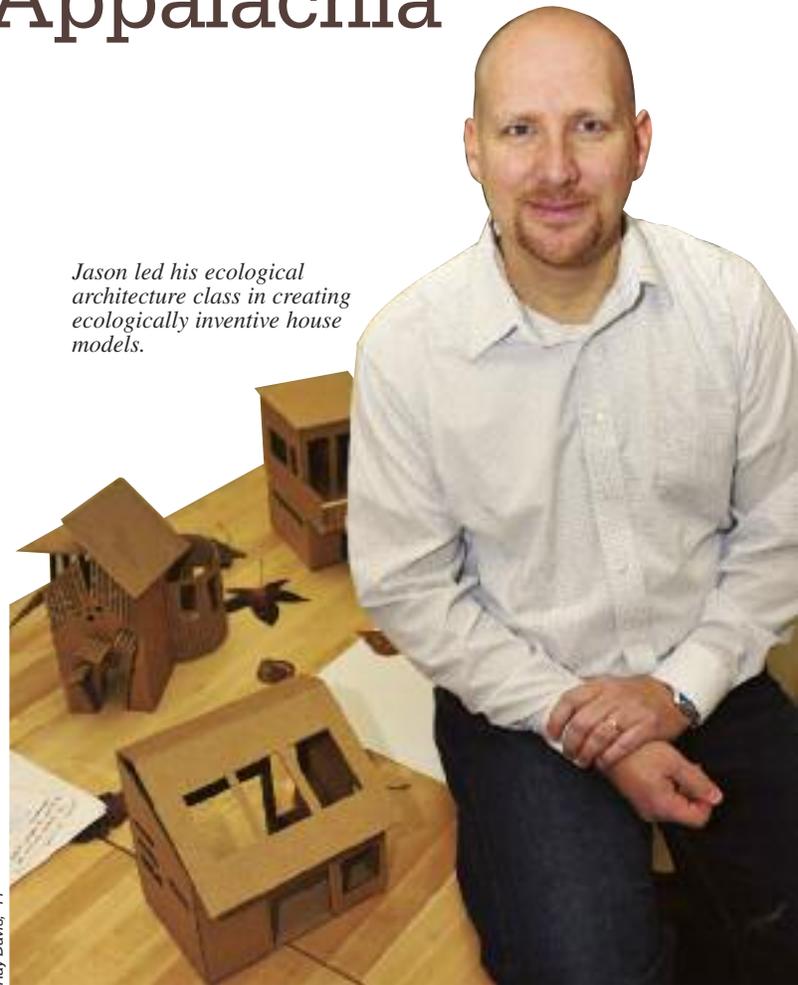
After graduating from UK with a master’s degree in architecture, Jason taught at Rural Studio for two years—a goal he set after his first exposure to the studio during Mockbee’s talk. Leaving Rural Studio to accept the Compton Chair at



Ray Davis, '11

Alena Gordienko, '13, Katie Bellnier, '11, and Ruhyyih Young, '11, view presentation models produced by James Coomes' design students.

Jason led his ecological architecture class in creating ecologically inventive house models.



Ray Davis, '11

Berea, Jason came with a commitment to creating hands-on learning opportunities like those offered in his upper level SENS courses—Ecological Architecture, an in-depth architectural design course; Deep Renovation, a course that uses architectural skills to redesign and renovate energy-wasting buildings; and the newly added Appropriate Technology Design, in which students research Appalachian issues such as straight pipes and design solutions. He also came with a vision for a Rural Studio-inspired experience for Berea students—an idea further since developed with other SENS faculty and named the Community Design Studio.

Like Rural Studio, the Community Design Studio would immerse students in a rural Appalachian community for a semester at a time. Needs would be assessed, and solutions would start small, says Jason. “What’s great about a model like this is that you get students from Appalachia going to Appalachia and doing this work, and then they have a much better mindset about going home, knowing what they might be able to do there.”

When asked how he intends to implement his plans, he says, “You have to under-promise and over-deliver. Keep expectations low; don’t go out there saying you’re going to change the world, because you have no idea what you’re going to do.”



Meet Mr. App

BY MICHAEL LORUSS, '09

When Octavia Sexton, '91, entered Berea College, she was convinced that her mountain upbringing needed to be erased. "I came to college with the idea that I'm going to get an education so that I can be somebody," she says. Many people told her to lose her accent and move beyond Appalachian culture.

After becoming acquainted with her teacher Loyal Jones, however, Octavia heard a different voice. "He made me realize I was already somebody, getting an education. He asked, 'What's wrong with who you are? And where you are? And what's wrong with developing the natural talent that you have, and letting an education help open doors for you?'"

Loyal challenged Octavia's belief that "unless you acquire all these degrees and all this status, and all this recognition in academia, that you don't amount to anything, that you don't matter." Octavia discovered reasons to be proud of her heritage and upbringing, with Loyal as an example.

"He actually pointed me in the right direction. Not by saying, 'This is a vocation you can go after,' but, 'there are people doing this.'"

Now a storyteller, Octavia makes her living telling traditional tales from the same hills and hollows she was once urged to forget. She cites Loyal with instilling in her an unshakable courage to defend her cultural identity with humble assuredness.

O'Neil Arnold, '85

Loyal Jones: In His Own Words

On Establishing the Appalachian Center

My main mandates were to coordinate the Appalachian commitments of Berea College and to create a means whereby faculty, staff, and students would learn more about the region through courses, research, convocations, and other special events.



Loyal Jones (top right) and his class in 1979 on a field trip to a coal mine.

On the Changes in Appalachia

I see the need for a proper balance between tradition and change. Things change and we have to change, also. Since Appalachia has been seen largely in negative ways, some of us may have developed a latent sense of shame that can lead us to exchange solid and valid regional values for those that undermine our sense of who we are. Berea graduates have shown that they can achieve in the world without changing their basic identity.

Appalachia—Loyal Jones

“I was definitely trying to be somebody else,” she admits. “And then, there was Loyal. ‘It’s good to be from Appalachia. You should be proud. And you need to speak standard English, but you don’t have to throw away your dialect. There’s a place for that.’ And so I ended up not leaving. I’m still right where I was, still telling stories.”

For Octavia, the key to understanding the communities she represents in her art, as well as audience members unfamiliar with the oral history of Appalachia, is found in being true to herself. She says that **Loyal “never lost sight of where he came from, the mountains, and the value of it. Just talking to him, I realized it’s okay to be whoever you are.”**



Ellie Rung, '10

Octavia Sexton, '91
Nearly twenty years ago, Chad Berry, conducting research for his graduate dissertation, approached Loyal for information regarding the steady migration of Southern and Appalachian Mountain

populations into cities such as Chicago, Cleveland, and Detroit. Today, serving as the fourth director of the recently rededicated Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, Chad is aware that his responsibilities follow not only the cumulative efforts of the center’s other past directors—Dr. Helen Lewis and Dr. Gordon McKinney—but specifically Loyal’s personal connections with the region. “I have fairly large shoes to fill,” Chad confesses. “Canoe-sized.”

When Chad travels through the region, people never fail to ask him how Loyal is. “He really personifies Berea to a number of people,” Chad says. “He’s really a grand old man of Appalachian culture. I guess if you live long enough, certain people become encyclopedic. But Loyal also matches his longevity with great wisdom and experience.” With a lifetime of service dedicated to underrepresented groups and individuals, Loyal’s efforts have never strayed into condescension.

Chad says that Loyal accepts people for who they are, whether they’re students, coal miners, or farmers, whether they’re single parents or belong to large families. “He refuses to judge people,” Chad says.

Chad notes that this type of accessibility among teachers and scholars is rare—although he attributes it to the best in both fields. “Loyal makes teaching seem so subtle and unobtrusive that you never know you’re being taught when you’re being taught.”

On Appalachian Music

I’ve long appreciated the great musical legacy in the region based on the ballads, folksongs, hymns, and fiddle tunes our forebears brought with them from the old countries. Doing the annual Celebration of Traditional Music was a great delight for me. I admire the talent of those who make music, and we’ve brought in a variety of gifted folk musicians, some of whom had little in the way of formal education. The festival offers a chance for the Berea community to experience these talented artists, attracting a faithful audience from far and near each year. Many of the performers are no longer with us, but their recordings are available in Berea’s Sound Archive as well as online.



Loyal served as the founding director of the Appalachian Center from 1970-93.

On Religion

It seems to me that the Christian stance should be a modest one. We should approach with humility and tolerance those who have cultural values and religious beliefs different from ours.

We need to approach the mysteries of creation also with deep humility, seeking answers from religious teaching, literature, science, and our own experiences. To cut ourselves off from any source of knowledge is to short-change ourselves.

Like countless others who have met Loyal, Chad is convinced that there is nothing like hearing one of his stories or having him tell you a joke and pat you on the back. “I would urge readers to try to get to know him,” he says. “I think one of the best ways to do that is through his writing.”

One of Loyal’s greatest works, according to Chad, is his book *Faith and Meaning in the Southern Uplands*. “I can hear him speak through his writing,” Chad says. “I can hear his voice.”

Aside from Loyal’s extensive literary contributions on Appalachian humor and history, he also offers advice and encouragement—or simply a knowing presence—for the Berea College community, particularly the Appalachian Center that now bears his name. Whether for readings by Appalachian

authors, film screenings, or exhibit openings featuring regional work, Chad feels that **“his support really is invaluable to all of us here in the Center. He never hesitates to come out to one of our events, whenever they’re going on. And it’s really wonderful to have that support.”**



Aaron Gilmour, '12

Chad Berry

The initial impressions that Karen McElmurray, '80, has of Loyal were formed in an Appalachian Studies class, which he pioneered early in his career at the College. Through the class, Karen was introduced to making quilts, homemade casts, and herbal salves and to the various barn styles that dot Kentucky’s landscape. “That class made me first glimpse, somewhere down in me, why I wanted to be a writer from the mountains,” she shares.

In early adulthood, Karen doubted her own abilities. She believes that Loyal helped her develop self-confidence. “He gave



O'Neil Arnold, '85

Loyal during the Center’s renaming ceremony.

me faith that I could come from the mountains, be proud of that, and write about my experiences.” Karen has since become a prolific writer and esteemed professor, yet she sees a troubling pattern in academia. Often in places in which she has taught Appalachian literature, the subject is rarely considered a serious course of study. For inspiration and reaffirmation, Karen recalls the wellspring of vibrant cultural history and the self-identification that many students were able to tap thanks

to Loyal’s Appalachian Studies class.

“I go back to books I have—books of essays, photographs, and stories. I find the name of Loyal Jones and I remember my first taste of the mountains, in words, in that class. I believe again in the mountains, its music, dance, art, and its soul.”

Motivated by his faith in her work, Karen knows that she is carrying Loyal’s legacy of learning toward a new generation of promising young minds. “I admire his humbleness,” she says.



Karen McElmurray, '80

“He never, in my memory, cast himself on some lofty academic plain. He was real, available, and genuine. In all those things, I count him a fine mentor.”

On Mountaintop Removal

The current mountaintop removal method of coal mining is too great an environmental price to pay for energy. We can’t abandon fossil fuel all at once, but we have to find alternative means of obtaining such fuel in the short term and new sources of energy for the future. We’ve built a colossal industrial behemoth in our developed countries which the Third World is swiftly extending, primarily with energy from coal, gas, and oil. It has degraded the land, water, and atmosphere, and we must cut down on and begin to heal the damage. Clean water will be of critical importance in the future, so it’s madness to bury and pollute living streams with mountaintop removal.



Loyal with friends at the Little Dove Church of Old Regular Baptist.

Looking back across four decades, Mike Mullins, '71, reflects upon the impact that Loyal first had on his life during Mike's senior year at Berea. The history major enrolled in Loyal's course on Appalachian Studies, which he says opened a new understanding of his own cultural heritage. "Loyal Jones is the first person to get me to realize where I came from and the kind of values that I have."

In his previous history classes, Mike says, no one ever mentioned Appalachia or its people. But in the late 1960s and early '70s, a great deal of social and scholarly emphasis began to envelop the region, and Loyal was in the vanguard of this movement. Under Loyal's guidance, Mike found himself immersed in folk traditions from local mountain communities, which ignited a keen interest in learning.



Normand Ellis

Mike Mullins, '71

"That light is still burning, and it was lit by Loyal Jones.

He is a wonderful teacher, but he also gives you plenty of latitude to discover things on your own."

Because of Loyal's intellectual support, Mike says, "I rank him up there with two or three people who have had the greatest influence on my life since I left the College."

Loyal's approach to teaching, Mike believes, not only allows students to establish personal relationships with learning but it also allows Loyal to learn from whom he teaches. Loyal is always intently listening, rather than solely speaking, he says. "He takes most things that people would tell as kind of a sitting around shooting the bull, and he records them, remembers them, and writes them down. He has this great ability to listen."



Ray Davis, '11

Loyal is a familiar face on campus, often found chatting with friends at Berea Coffee & Tea.

After serving at Alice Lloyd College for five years, Mike became the fifth executive director of the Hindman Settlement School. Immediately, he added Loyal Jones as the board director. Loyal went on to serve on Hindman's board for nearly 29 years—19 of which he spent as chairman. After his retirement from the position, Loyal was appointed member emeritus. "He helped provide an even keel for me," Mike says. "Loyal was very thoughtful and always lent an ear."

Mike affirms the influence that Loyal has had on the work of many others. "In life, if you're lucky, there will be people who will make you a better person. And Loyal Jones is one of those people." When Appalachian scholar Dr. Cratis Williams died several years ago, Mike says that the title of the region's most highly accomplished advocate was handed to Loyal Jones.

"In my estimation, he is the most well-known and the most well-respected person in Appalachian studies in the entire region. He is, in my opinion, Mr. Appalachia."

On Storytelling, Tales, and Ballads

All stories, even jokes, are important because they are about human experiences. They bring a sense of wonder to our children, teach vital lessons about good and evil, right and wrong, and reflect important sentiments of the heart.

I've done a lot of public speaking, usually starting with humorous stories to get the audience laughing—a quick way to form a relationship. Laughter is a pleasant emotion that opens people up to other emotions and ideas. When I proceed with my serious message, I often use humorous stories that illustrate points I am making as a way to keep them connected and listening.



Loyal has received many awards: the President's Medallion, the Berea College Service Award, and the W.D. Weatherford Award.

Guy Adams Comes

BY DEB MCINTYRE, '11

Guy Adams, '81, keeps more than addresses and phone numbers on his BlackBerry™ smartphone. He hoards inspirational quotes and passes them around like candy.

“They’re all important to me for a different reason,” says Guy. As an expert in public relations, marketing, fundraising, and leadership, he uses the quotes to motivate colleagues, clients, friends, and family. This winter, one quote, long-kept but never shared, motivated him to make a major change in his career and brought him back home to serve the people of Appalachia.

Guy was raised in a working-class family in a Louisville, Kentucky, suburb. When he was about to graduate high school, his father, a tenth-grade dropout whose family had migrated from Harlan County, surprised him by saying, “You know you’re going to college.” Guy hadn’t planned on it, but he honored his father’s wishes and entered Morehead State University that fall.

A year later he moved back in with his parents. This time his father said, “You’re an adult now, and if you’re coming back home, you’ll pay your mother \$50 a week.” For about ten months Guy worked the graveyard shift at a factory grinding saw blades—a repetitive, exhausting task. When a friend suggested he visit Berea College, Guy jumped at the chance to turn his life in a new direction.

“I hadn’t been at Berea ten minutes before I thought, ‘I’ve got to be here—this feels like home,’” says Guy. **“My heart was alive when I was on this campus. I think sometimes our souls know what we need, and I knew I needed Berea.”**

Guy became a fixture in campus life, memorable for his signature bib overalls; active in theatre, tennis, and student government. Guy’s engaging personality and natural leadership won him election as president of the Student Association (forerunner to the Student Government Association) his



Guy and other Student Association officers in 1980.

sophomore year. In an interview with *The Pinnacle*, he listed his top priorities as expanding the service activities of the association, improving campus communications, and getting a student representative on the board of trustees.

Guy learned the power of giving when then-vice president of development, Cy Young, asked him to write donors thank-you letters on behalf of the students and to give occasional tours to financial supporters. A short-term course in Institutional Advancement in January 1980 allowed him to travel and meet many donors face to face. The experience nudged him in the direction he has traveled ever since. Guy refers to it as his calling into ministry—the ministry of philanthropy.



The Berea College 1980 tennis team with Guy at front row, far right.

Since none of Berea’s majors fit him, Guy became an independent major in public relations. For his independent study course on interviewing, he wrote about Clyde and Elsie Jones, who ran the College’s candy kitchen in the 1930s, English professor Jerome Hughes, '75, and former Berea president Dr. Francis Hutchins. “Telling the story of this College that serves needy students was impacting my life,” he says. Also changing his life his senior year was the arrival of a freshman, Beth McKenzie, '84, from Ashland, Kentucky. They married in Danforth Chapel after Guy graduated and settled in Berea.

Though he’d never lived in the mountains, Guy’s father raised him on bluegrass music and tales of his coal-mining ancestors. “It wasn’t really until I got to Berea and started learning about and meeting people from [the region] that I developed a deep love and appreciation for the people and cultures of Appalachia,” says Guy.

While he wanted to work for a faith-based college, his first job offer came from the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP),

Full Circle

a nonprofit organization that provides “physical, spiritual, and emotional support” through programs focused on helping needy Appalachians help themselves.

As the assistant director of development, Guy gained a deeper insight into poverty while delivering Christmas baskets to some of Appalachia’s neediest citizens. “I went in homes with dirt floors and where you could look right through the walls in cold weather to the outside.” It was far from his suburban roots, but he still felt a bond with those he served. “My knowledge of God tells me I’m a very, very small part of his world but that I’m connected to everybody.”

After more than three years with CAP, Guy worked in Texas; at Mary Holmes College in Mississippi; at Lees-McRae College in North Carolina; at Lindsey Wilson College in Kentucky; and at Gonser Gerber Tinker Stuhr, a national consulting firm in Chicago, Illinois, that advises nonprofit institutions and organizations.

Guy had met Cal Stoney, a partner in the firm, while taking Institutional Advancement. When Stoney told him, “You could do this work someday,” it inspired Guy. “I thought, ‘Gosh, it’s one thing to help one mission, but what if, as a consultant, I could impact many missions?’” Working for the firm became his ultimate career goal.

By the fall of 2009, Guy was in his fifth year with the Chicago firm, traveling the country and helping nonprofits. A father of three daughters with Beth, whom he calls his “perfect match,” he planned to stay put until retirement.

That’s when CAP trustees, seeking a new president and chief executive officer, contacted Guy. He told them “no” three times before his wife said, “You’re crazy not to consider this position. Look at what they’re searching for. It’s as though every job you’ve ever had has prepared you to do this.” While weighing the pros and cons, that long-held quote tipped the scales in CAP’s favor.

“We must be willing to get rid of the life we’ve planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us,” mythologist Joseph Campbell wrote. “I got very emotional reading that quote,” says Guy. “I told Beth,



‘Now I know who the quote is for. It’s for me.’ That’s pretty powerful when it hits you smack in the face.”

Content as a team player, Guy had never desired to head an organization, but the opportunity to once again help the people of Appalachia won him over. Guy feels God has prepared him to lead CAP. He believes he has returned to the calling he first felt here thirty years ago. “I want to encourage people to know the joy of giving and to experience how giving impacts others.”

Honoring the Pioneers

BY ROBERT MOORE, '13

“We welcome all of you to kindred soil,” said Berea President Larry Shinn to those gathered February 25 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights (KCHR), the state agency that enforces civil rights law. The College hosted a KCHR meeting at Lincoln Hall in the morning, then a luncheon presentation at Boone Tavern to honor three alumni: Galen A. Martin, '51, David O. Welch, '55, and Carter G. Woodson, 1903.



Tim Webb

David Welch, '55, and President Larry Shinn

“Honoring Galen Martin and David Welch at Berea College is as natural as having the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs,” said William “Bill” Turner, the National Endowment for the Humanities Chair in Appalachian Studies, who organized the tribute and served as master of ceremonies. Turner’s first job after graduating from the University of Kentucky in 1968 was as a KCHR investigator.

Keynote speaker John Fleming, '66, a president of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) from 2007 to 2009, thanked Martin, Welch, and Woodson for their “... groundbreaking and lifelong commitment to civil rights.” As a student, he took part in the 1964 March on Frankfort before being recruited into the KCHR by Martin.

“We were breaking new ground,” Fleming said. “We were pioneers.”

Many other attendees had been recruited into the KCHR by Martin as well, including David Welch and current KCHR executive director John J. Johnson.

“Galen Martin was always on the right side of justice,” said Johnson.

Martin (1927–2006) was born in the segregated mill town of Rainelle, West Virginia. While attending the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he organized tests to see if white

landlords would rent to black students. As the KCHR’s first executive director, he is responsible for both the Kentucky Civil Rights Act (1966) and the Kentucky Fair Housing Act (1968) and was a founder and director of the Kentucky Fair Housing Council.

“Galen Martin has done more for civil rights in this commonwealth than any other white man,” said honoree David Welch, who spoke of the seismic shifts in American race relations that have occurred in his lifetime.

In 1954, Welch, as president of the Student Association at Berea College, asked President Francis Hutchins to put pressure on College Square businesses to serve newly arriving African American students after the overturning of the Day Law.

Thanks to his Harvard law degree, Welch chaired the commonwealth’s first discrimination hearings in 1967. When he thought a defendant was lying, he used the only power he had: his gavel. “I hit the gavel hard enough he had to tell the truth,” Welch said.

A former mayor of Ashland, founder of the Ashland Human Rights Commission, and a Berea trustee since 1986, Welch, according to KCHR Commissioner V. Ann Newman, is “Kentucky’s long-distance runner for civil rights.” Despite all he has seen, Welch reminded the audience that “the work is not done.”

“Mr. Welch reminded us that we have advanced greatly in civil right issues but that we still have a way to go,” said Juan Peña, '98. The continuing bond between Berea and the KCHR is represented by KCHR field supervisor Peña, who oversees educational and outreach programs, investigates police complaints, and translates KCHR literature into Spanish. “The work of these three outstanding individuals can easily be connected with the historic mission of Berea College,” Peña said.

Berea’s historic mission also was lauded by civil rights leaders Benjamin Hooks and Julian Bond. KCHR Commissioner Samuel Coleman Jr. read a letter of congratulation from former NAACP director Hooks, whose grandmother, Julia Britton Hooks, and great aunt, Mary E. Britton, both graduated from Berea in 1874. “Berea has played a remarkable historic role in Kentucky and the United States,”



Tim Webb

Robert Martin, son of Galen Martin, '51, speaks at the KCHR recognition ceremony.



Bill Turner speaks after the unveiling of the Carter G. Woodson signboard, forty-eighth in the Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians series.

Hooks said. “The Commission could utilize no better backdrop than this lovely old place.”

KCHR Commissioner Duane Bonifer read a letter from former Congressman and outgoing head of the NAACP Julian Bond. Bond’s grandfather James Bond, 1892, a Berea trustee from 1896 to 1914, helped found the Lincoln Institute after the passing of the Day Law. “It is important for the young people of Kentucky to become aware of the history of Berea College,” wrote Bond.

A large figure in that history is Carter G. Woodson, known as “the Father of Black History.” Born in New Canton, Virginia, less than a decade after the emancipation of his parents, Woodson taught himself to read while working on the railroad and in the coal mines of West Virginia. After earning his literature degree from Berea College, he earned his doctorate in history from Harvard in 1912, the second African American to do so, after W.E.B. Du Bois.

Noting that African Americans’ cultural contributions were “... overlooked, ignored, and even suppressed by the writers of history textbooks,” Woodson founded the ASALH to research, preserve, and disseminate information about black life, history, and culture. In 1926 he created Negro History

Week (later Black History Month), choosing February because it contained the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

Today Berea College celebrates his achievements with the Carter G. Woodson Professorship, the Carter G. Woodson Student Service Award, the Woodson Math and Science Institute, and the Woodson Weekend, an event designed to recruit students of color to the College.

Woodson’s poster, the forty-eighth in the Gallery of Great Black Kentuckian series, was unveiled by KCHR commissioners Virginia Burton and Timothy Thomas. Past honorees include Berea alumni James Bond and Mary E. Britton. Woodson was inducted into the KCHR’s Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2005, the same year as John G. Fee.

“This event was so extraordinary in terms of linking Berea’s past and contemporary graduates in interracial education and justice,” said President Shinn. “The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and the civil rights statutes that it inspired were primarily the inspiration of Galen Martin and his colleagues from Berea.”

A Boon for the Humanities

Berea College received two generous grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation totaling more than \$600,000 to create, promote, and sustain interdisciplinary programs in the humanities; to fund two faculty positions for two years each; and to assist the faculty in its academic restructuring. The grants will fund a yearlong study of the role of liberal arts and create development opportunities for faculty. The proposal will help the College maintain its humanities offerings in the face of several upcoming retirements.

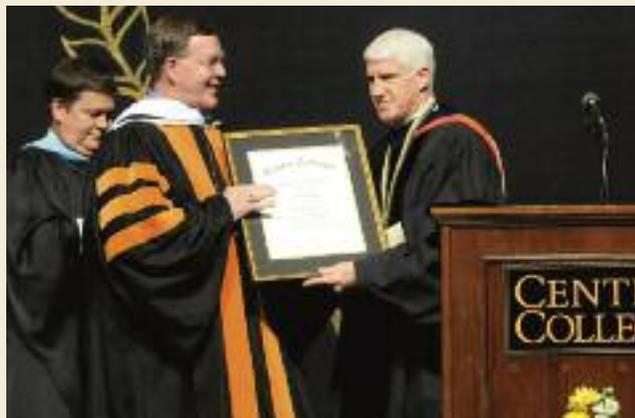
The second Mellon grant supports Berea faculty in the study and implementation of their reorganization into larger academic units. Said President Larry Shinn, "This award from Mellon is a tribute to our faculty's and the College's academic reputation among the nation's private liberal arts colleges."

President Shinn Receives Honorary Degree from Centre College

In January, President Larry D. Shinn received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree and delivered the keynote address during Founder's Day at Centre College. The degree recognized his "... active role in the Energizing Kentucky initiative, as well as the strides he has made towards sustainability at Berea."

Energizing Kentucky, an ongoing initiative to improve the commonwealth's energy and economic situations, was organized by Shinn in collaboration with presidents John Roush (Centre), Lee Todd (University of Kentucky), and James Ramsey (University of Louisville). Three conferences thus far have brought together industry and business, government policymakers, and higher education leaders. Shinn has been a catalyst to green renovations of campus buildings and the establishment of the Ecovillage residential learning complex.

Over his career, he has been recognized by many institutions, including the American Council of Learned Societies, the Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at the University of Chicago, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Princeton University.



Chris Floyd, Centre College

Larry Shinn receives his honorary degree from Centre College's President John Roush during their Founder's Day ceremonies in January.

Appalachian Fellows Research Musical Roots and Meanings

Jason Howard and Ben Fellows researched Appalachian musical traditions this spring in the College's Special Collections and Archives. Howard researched "contemporary roots music" for his book in progress, *One of Us: Kentucky Musicians and Sense of Place*. Howard connects such modern musicians as Naomi Judd and Patty Loveless with their historic, and less familiar, counterparts.

Fellows, a student of Oxford University's Harris Manchester College, explored the experiences of musicians from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. His findings may determine how musical history reveals the thinking of Americans during periods of upheaval, a line of inquiry for his undergraduate dissertation in politics and modern history.

Four other research projects were completed. Auburn literature professor Erich Nunn researched race and American roots music from the 1920s through the 1940s; Tammy Clemons, '99, and Timi Reedy documented the careers of Harlan County bluegrass musicians John and Frances Reedy; Meredith Doster researched the music of Baptist churches in Watauga County, North Carolina; and Peter Winne researched Appalachian sacred music vocals and styling.

All fellowships were funded with the help of the Anne Ray Charitable Trust.



Ray Davis, '11

Jason Howard



Ray Davis, '11

Ben Fellows



Erich Nunn



Timi Reedy and Tammy Clemons



Ray Davis, '11

Meredith Doster and Peter Winne

Phelps Stokes Chapel Needed a Lift

This winter as painters prepared to work in Phelps Stokes Chapel, deep wall cracks revealed an underlying structural problem. While classrooms and other spaces in the building remained open, the auditorium was closed for repairs. The historic Phelps Stokes Chapel, built by students in 1905, traditionally houses the convocation series that includes concerts, performances, and special lectures.



Phelps Stokes Chapel

Union Church of Berea offered its building to house the semester's convocations, and Berea students gratefully packed its pews until Phelps Stokes was repaired. The auditorium was reopened in time for the April 15 convocation with Kentucky author Silas House, but will close again for further renovation this summer.

Berea Is One of the Best

Forbes Magazine and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity (CCAP) chose Berea College as one of the best colleges in the South and one of the best colleges in the country. CCAP ranks only the top 15 percent of the more than 4,000 college campuses in the U.S. Ranking factors include student satisfaction, postgraduate employment success, estimated average four-year student loan debt, student graduation rates within four years, and students and faculty academic and research grants and awards. Only two other Kentucky institutions made the list—Centre College and Transylvania University.



Students take part in active learning during Ralph Thompson's botany class.

O'Neill Arnold '85

Heard around Campus

“One of the strongest indicators of health is your zip code. ... If your water is polluted with PCB or dioxins, it doesn't matter what color you are. It will make you just as dead.”

—Robert Bullard,
director of Environmental Justice
Resource Center
“Strategies for Creating Healthy and Sustainable Communities” convocation,
February

“We're used to [the idea that] ‘you need money to get food.’ That makes us an anomaly in the world.”

—Lori Wallach,
director of Public Citizen's Global
Trade Watch division
*“Gender and Democracy:
The Globalization Debate”
Peanut Butter & Gender,*
March

“In understanding any sort of change, it is important for us to understand how power gets enacted.”

—Susan Marine,
assistant dean for student life at
Harvard College
*“Navigating Discourses of Discomfort”
Peanut Butter & Gender,*
March

“You are required by your religion to stand up for those who are being oppressed, especially if they are different than you. ... The first thing an interfaith leader does is see the world in a different way—as a place of bridge building, as a place of brotherhood.”

—Eboo Patel,
director of Interfaith Youth Core
“Acts of Faith: Interfaith Leadership in an Era of Religious Crisis” convocation,
March

“Cancer is not a random tragedy. ... Through (groundbreaking) bio-monitoring work, we now know with certainty that there's a whole kaleidoscope of chemicals that are linked to cancer that exist inside all of us.”

—Dr. Sandra Steingraber,
author and cancer survivor;
“Ecology and Cancer” convocation,
March

“I wanted to make a film depicting how the national appetite for power is affecting people. ... To meet the rising energy demands, the United States would have to build one new power plant each week for the next twenty years.”

—Tom Hansell,
director of *The Electricity Fairy*,
Kentucky premiere,
Loyal Jones Appalachian Center film,
March



Robert Bullard



Lori Wallach



Susan Marine



Eboo Patel



Sandra Steingraber



Tom Hansell

Bobby Cain Recalls Desegregation and the “Clinton 12”

On Martin Luther King Day, President Shinn presented Bobby Cain with a President’s Medallion in honor of his experience. Cain was one of twelve African American students who attended an all-white school in Clinton, Tennessee. The Clinton 12 became the subject of a 2006 documentary narrated by James Earl Jones. During his convocation speech, Cain recounted his memories of that experience in 1956.

Other events celebrating MLK’s life included a carillon concert of King’s favorite songs performed by John Courter. The College held several gatherings for prayer, songs, and poems in remembrance. The day began with the annual march on City Hall, a community gathering to remember the civil rights struggles of the past and to voice a hope for the future.



Aaron Gilmour, '12

Bereans joined together outside City Hall to celebrate the work and memory of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Boone Tavern Earns LEED Gold Status

The U.S. Green Building Council awarded the newly renovated Boone Tavern the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification,



Ellie Rung, '10

making it the first green hotel in Kentucky and one of the few in America to attain LEED Gold status. Boone Tavern won praise for sustainable site work, water and energy efficiency, materials and construction methods, use of recycled materials, indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design processes. President Larry Shinn calls the historic landmark Berea College’s “front door” to guests and friends of the College.

SIFE Students Win Regional Championship

For the second consecutive year, the Berea College Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team excelled at the regional competition held this spring in Cleveland, Ohio. SIFE is an international nonprofit organization that mobilizes college students to work for their communities and develop the skills necessary to become socially responsible business leaders.

Berea was one of thirty two teams qualifying for the SIFE National Expo held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in May. The team won second runner-up (in 2009, SIFE Berea became regional champion and advanced to nationals, where it won first runner-up in the first round). The Berea team is known for making efficient projects with a limited budget. Economics and business professor Mark Roselli is faculty adviser.

Music, Memories, and Convocations Showcase Black History Month

The renowned American Spiritual Ensemble opened this year’s celebration of Black History Month. Performers for the Stephenson Memorial concert included music professor Kathy Bullock, Tay Seals, and Anne Grundy, '65. Seals’ grandparents



Aaron Gilmour, '12

Members of the Ensemble dance as they sing at their February convocation.

graduated from Berea just before the passing of the Day Law prohibited integrated schooling. Grundy keeps close ties to Berea through her work with the African Student Association and the Black Student Union.

Included in the month-long celebration were two convocations. Robert Bullard, director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University, delivered the Carter G. Woodson convocation that addressed global environmental justice issues in the poor South. Berea trustee John Fleming, '66, spoke of his experiences as founding director of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center and as director of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati.



Ray Davis, '11

John Fleming, '66

Students Plant 7,000 Trees



Brenda Richardson, '81

Matt Callo, '12, participates in the tree-planting effort.

Students from Berea College and the University of the Cumberlands planted 7,000 trees on reclaimed mine land near Williamsburg on Kentucky Hwy. 478. On a windy, and wintry Saturday, nearly 100 volunteers planted foot-tall saplings into the snow-covered ground, working for almost seven hours. Among the trees planted were saplings of the almost extinct American chestnut, once among the most plentiful in the Appalachian forests. All trees were provided by the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative.

The Home Run Tour Uplifts Through Song

Berea students took learning, labor, and service off campus this spring break. Taking their musical talents to the streets, seven students performed their "Home Run Tour" in several southern cities. The tour is the brainchild of industrial technology major Breon Thomas, '10. Calling themselves S.E.E. Him (which stands for Serve, Encourage, and Entertain), they hoped to inspire audiences at homeless shelters, high schools, and other community locations.

In addition, the students contributed to the communities through roadside clean-ups and spent time with youth and the elderly in Knoxville and Chattanooga, Tennessee, and in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Inspired by the time he spent living in a homeless shelter, Breon hoped the tour would bring the audiences the kind of hope and encouragement he once found through a shelter volunteer's uplifting songs.



Ellie Rung, '12

Terrell Horton, '13, Wayne Cox, '13, Megan Norris, '13, Chiayim Burney, '12, Breon Thomas, '10, Markesha Dunham, '13 and Tony Bill, '13

Berea Students Take Center Stage

Berea students excelled at the 42nd Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. The Region IV festival included workshops, readings, and auditions for the prestigious Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship. "The competition was fierce," says theatre professor Shan Ayers. He and visiting assistant professor Velicia Daniels accompanied ten students to Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

Ashley French, '10, won Best Performance of Classical Literature for her scene from *Medea*. She and fellow students Edwin Schiff, '11; Anthony Nathan, '11; Jonathan Johnson, '10; Christian Honce, '10; Stephanie Radford, '10; Traci Sisson, '11; and David Bellnier, '12, competed against 400 other student actors. Adina Ramsey, '11, and Kathryn Newquist, '12, worked backstage as part of the stage management fellowship program.

Certificates for Excellence went to Berea faculty members Deborah Martin (directing) and Shan Ayers (scenic design) for *The Rocky Horror Show*, and to Mary Ann Shupe (costume design) for August Wilson's *Seven Guitars*.



Aaron Gilmour, '12

Jonathan Johnson, Ashley French, Anthony Nathan, Kathryn Newquist, and Adina Ramsey all represented Berea at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

Turner Named Player of the Year

Mountaineer Mikah Turner, '10, is the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Men's Player of the Year. A 6-foot 3-inch senior forward from Maysville, Kentucky, Turner led the Mountaineers to a 19-10 record while averaging 27.6 points per game, third in NAIA Division II. He had 14 games in which he scored 30 points, with a career-high 45 points in the OSU-Mansfield game in December of last year.

Turner, a former standout athlete at Mason County High School, shot 55.4 percent from the field, 41.7 percent from 3-point range, and 65 percent from the free throw line, and he pulled down 8.6 rebounds per game. He also had 50 steals, 25 blocked shots and 12 double-double performances during the 2009-10 season.

Turner's career stats at Berea include 2,083 points and 673 rebounds in 113 games.



Ellie Rung, '10

NEWS from FACULTY, STAFF, and TRUSTEES

Broadhead Publishes *Jewish Ways of Following Jesus*

Associate professor of general studies Edwin Broadhead recently published his research on the ancient evidence of Jewish Christianity and its impact. He suggests that Jewish Christians have been vastly unrepresented and undervalued in ancient and modern times. The diversity and variety of its appearance may require the making of a new map of religions in antiquity. Furthermore, Broadhead suggests that the historical development of Judaism and Christianity is interrelated.



Edwin Broadhead

Ray Davis, '11

David Shelton Appointed to Borders Group Board

Borders Group, Inc., one of the nation's leading book, music, and video retailers, recently appointed Berea trustee David Shelton, '69, to its board of directors. Shelton has worked for Lowe's Companies Inc. for 36 years, most recently as senior vice president in real estate, engineering, and constructions. After graduating from Berea College, Shelton earned his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.



David Shelton, '69

O'Neil Arnold, '95



Libby Jones

Aaron Gillmour, '12

Libby Jones' New Book Published

English professor Libby Falk Jones' poetry chapbook, *Above the Eastern Treetops, Blue*, was published in March by Finishing Line Press. The book's cover features a watercolor by former Berea art instructor, Dorothy Tredennick, '46. Writer Marilyn Kallet called Jones' poetry "unique in contemporary literature." Jones has given readings at venues including the Southern Women Writers Conference, Kentucky Women's Book Festival, Madison County Public Library, and Berea Arts Council. Her poems have been published in anthologies including *Connecticut Review*, *New Millennium Writings*, and *New Growth: Recent Kentucky Writings*.

Foster Translates Ancient Chinese Text

For the past year history department chair Robert Foster has been translating an ancient Chinese text that outlines strategies for the board game GO. This will help scholars and fans understand GO's earliest roots and provide researchers with cultural insight into one of the world's oldest board games. The scroll is a half-foot wide and 8 feet long. "I find it fascinating to think about someone (in antiquity) playing this game and thinking about the same sort of strategies. And now I have a teacher from 1500 years ago who's helping me think about how I need to study the game," Foster said.



Robert Foster

Ray Davis, '11

Julie Hruby Receives Research Grant

Assistant professor of art Julie Hruby has recently received an Institute for Aegean Prehistory grant for her research project, "Plainware Pottery from the Palace of Nestor at Pylos." She continues her research in Greece this summer. Dr. Hruby, a graduate of Duke University, joined the Berea faculty in 2008. She completed her master's and doctorate degrees at the University of Cincinnati.

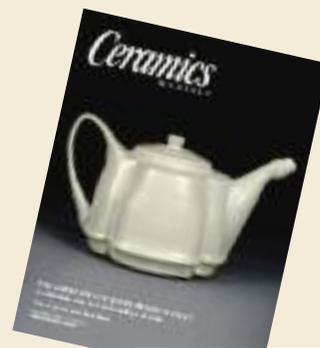


Julie Hruby

Danien Buttle, '11

Ceramics Monthly Features the Work of Tina Gebhart

A lobed porcelain, salt-fired teapot by Tina Gebhart, assistant professor in art, graces the cover of the December 2009 *Ceramics Monthly*. In the essay that discusses her work, Gebhart says that she likes making teapots because "the teapot form ... exemplifies taking time. Each morning, I drink a full pot of tea, and do so in slow time. This may be the only slow time of that day, and I take it first, not last, in preparation for the business that will almost inevitably occur."



Tina Gebhart

Ellie Rung, '10

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

With more than 17,000 members around the world, the Berea College Alumni Association represents a diverse, yet connected, extended community. We encourage all our 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 alums in your community, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 1.866.804.0591 or visit www.berea.edu/alumni/

Alumni Association Executive Council 2009-2010

James "Bones" Cecil Owens, '66, President

Celeste Patton Armstrong, '90,
President-Elect

Rob Stafford, '89, Past President

Larry D. Shinn, Hon '09

William A. Laramée, Hon '09

Mae Suramek, '95

Alumni Trustees - 6-Year Terms

Vicki Allums, '79

Lynn Blankenship Caldwell, '78

Janice Hunley Crase, '60

Jim Lewis, '70

Members at Large 2009-10

Jennifer Jones Allen, '01

Joe Brandenburg, '71

William Churchill, '70

Jason Von Cody, '94

David Cook, '85

Ronald Dockery, '70

Lowell Hamilton, '61

Timothy Jones, '94

Peggy Mitchell Mannering, '71

Bob Miller, '58

Jason Miller, '98

Larry Owen, '61

D. Wesley Poythress, '89

Willie Sanders, '69

Edward Seay, '95

Cara Stewart-Green, '03

Karen Troxler, '80

Larry Woods, '75

Young Alumni Advisory Council

Brandy Sloan Brabham, '00

Dwayne Compton, '01

Steven Goodpaster, '03, President-Elect

Destiny Harper, '06

David Harrison, '01, President

Jonathan Johnson, '99

Markesha Flagg McCants, '03,

Executive Secretary

Christina Ryan Perkins, '98

Jeremy Rotty, '05

Our BEREA EXPERIENCE didn't end with graduation and neither should yours...

The Berea College Young Alumni Advisory Council serves as a resource for our fellow alumni by facilitating communication, supporting development and recruiting efforts, and serving as a resource for the Office of Alumni Relations. This exciting and growing all-volunteer organization is seeking alumni who wish to foster the great tradition that is the BEREA EXPERIENCE. Will you join us?

To learn more about the Council and how you can become a member, visit <http://www.berea.edu/alumni/youngalumniprogram/> or contact Nolan Oberg, Coordinator of Alumni and Student Programs, at Nolan_Oberg@berea.edu.



LONG LIVE BEREA!



HOMECOMING

November 12-14, 2010

Celebrating the Special Reunion Classes of 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Alumni Awards Reception

6:00 p.m.

Baird Lounge, Alumni Building

Award Recipients:

Distinguished Alumnus Award:

Dr. Robert Ling, '61

Outstanding Young Alumnus Award:

Dr. Ronnie Nolan, '95

Joshua Powell, '97

Honorary Alumnus Award:

Linda Durand

Jeff Amburgey

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

BereaFest

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Enjoy fun and festivities on the lawns of Fairchild and Alumni.

Cheer on the Mountaineers!

5:30 p.m.

Main Arena, Seabury Center

Alumni Mixer

After men's basketball game

Baird Lounge,

Alumni Building

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Alumni Worship Service

10:30 a.m.

Union Church

Special performances by the Alumni Chapel and Concert Choir, directed by Dr. Stephen Bolster



photos by Leanna Kaiser, '12, and Chris Hayes, '08

ABOUT BEREA PEOPLE

The Berea College Alumni Association enjoys hearing from Bereans from all over the U.S. and the world. The "About Berea People" section of *Berea College Magazine* reports verifiable news that has been sent to the Association by the alumni. BCM reports the news you wish to share with your alumni friends and associates. "About Berea People" reports careers, weddings, retirements, births, changes in addresses, and other items of importance to our alumni. Please include your class year and name used while attending Berea. Notes may be edited for style and length. Our print deadlines may delay the appearance of your class news. While we will make every effort to put your information into the next issue, due to printing schedules, some delays are typical. We appreciate your understanding. For more information on how to submit class notes and photographs, call 1.866.804.0591, e-mail diana_taylor@berea.edu, or log on to www.berea.edu/alumni.

Class Notes

1939

Melba Wilson Wash is the library director at First Baptist Church in Martin, TN, where she resides.

1942

Roberta Larew Allison is a contributor to the book *Coal Camps and Castor Oil*. She resides in Charleston, WV.

Frances Barr Cargill plays the dulcimer with a local group at local functions, weaves weekly with fellow weavers, and is active in her church. She resides in Franklin, NC.

1945

Bette Allison Todd and John Todd celebrated their 51st wedding

anniversary in 2009. They reside in Newark, DE.

1946

Raymond A. Bradbury, Acad '46, and **Claranelle Blackburn Bradbury, '52**, celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary in November 2009. They have been retired 17 years and have travelled extensively. They reside in a retirement-life community in Matthews, NC.

1947

Mary Lou Keener Finlayson and Kier Finlayson reside in Garden Spot Village, a retirement community, in New Holland, PA.

Lucile Crumpler Stewart and Edwin P. Stewart celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 3, 2009. They reside in Tallahassee, FL.

1948

Dr. Reedus Back retired as president of the Back-Bach Genealogical Society. He served as president for the first 15 years and was recognized for leading a small local group to found the nationwide genealogical society. He and Carrie, his wife, reside in Morehead, KY.

1949

Peggy Johnson Duncan, MD, Cx '49, is retired from her medical practice. For 40 years, she and her husband offered medical services to their community through their family practice, Drs. Duncan & Duncan, P.A. Dr. Stacy Duncan, her husband, died in May 2009. Peggy now spends her time visiting her children, reading, traveling, and swimming. She resides in Nunn, NC.

French E. Rogers, Jr. and **Barbrea Hill Rogers** celebrated their 60th anniversary on August 28, 2009. They are retired teachers and reside in Hendersonville, NC.

1950

Foster F. Burgess resides in Freeport, FL, with Aurora, his wife,

and Kenneth and Mary Ann, their newly adopted children from the Philippines.

1951

Gene Rice, PhD, retired in May 2009 after 51 years as professor of Old Testament language and literature at the Howard University School of Divinity. He and **Betty Jean Smith Rice, Cx '53**, reside in Washington, DC. **Stan Shrader** is part of the daily pickup basketball games at the YMCA which features players as young as 20. He has played basketball for seven decades and won two medals at Senior Olympics. He resides in Fort Worth, TX.

1952

Claranelle Blackburn Bradbury and **Raymond A. Bradbury, Acad '46**, celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary in November 2009. They have been retired 17 years and have travelled extensively. They reside in a retirement-life community in Matthews, NC.

1953

Phyllis K. Lisi is a retired educator. She resides in Las Vegas, NV.

1954

John "Kenny" Gwinn and Lynette Gwinn celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary in Hawaii in 2009. They have visited 50 states since their marriage. They reside in Greencastle, IN.

Philip M. Hampton sold his engineering company, Hampton Engineering Associates, Inc. and started a new company, Hampton Envirotech Associates, LLC, in order to take on and complete a two-year road project that ends in July 2010. He has received numerous awards during his career and resides in Clarkston, MI.

Nancy Biddix McKinnis is a retired elementary school teacher and Bill McKinnis is a retired chemical salesman. This past summer they travelled to Labrador, Canada. They reside at The Estates at Carpenters, a

continuing care community in Lakeland, FL.

Dr. Joe L. Morgan was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the North East Republican Party in 2009. He attended his first statewide GOP Convention in 1958. He resides in Marshall, NC.

1956

Wendell Powers and Laquita, his wife, celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary on June 29, 2009. They raised their four daughters in Taiwan, People's Republic of China, where they were missionaries for 15 years. He retired from a hospital in Beaumont, TX after 10 years as staff chaplain. He now works part-time as a hospice chaplain in Huntsville, AL, where they reside.

1959

Dr. Jack Justin Turner is a retired professor emeritus at Middle Tennessee University. He has written two highly acclaimed novels about the people and places of his native Kentucky mountains: *The Sheriffs' Murder Cases* and *The Foxes and the Hounds*. He resides in Lexington, KY.

1960

Liz Tester Davis is a retired nurse and **Vance Davis, '61**, is a retired chaplain. They spent June of 2009 in Ireland and Scotland. He is teaching and supervising five ministers for training in hospital internship chaplaincy. They reside at Milligan College, TN.

Dr. Nathan Greene is a retired research scientist and **Lynn Easter Greene, Cx '61**, is retired from a real estate career. They live on 15 acres in Bullard, TX and enjoy traveling and gardening.

Emma Lou Deaton Lowe and Donald L. Lowe reside in Laurel, MS. They have a son, two daughters, and seven grandchildren.

Mary Jane Miller realized a long-held goal this past July when she moved from New Jersey to Williamsburg, VA. She would like to hear from Bereans.

1961

Marlene Ellis Payne is a retired professor from Berea College. She is studying carillon under John Courter and plays in a local string quintet. Husband **John Vandaveer Payne, '62**, is a retired physician. He works overseas at least twice a year in medical mission work. They reside in Berea, KY.



Foster F. Burgess, '50, wife Aurora, and children Kenneth and Mary Ann



Gene Rice, '51



Marlene Ellis Payne, '61



John Vandaveer Payne, '62

1962

Celia Hooper Miles, '62, is co-editor and contributor to an anthology, *Clothes Lines*, from 75 western North Carolina women. She resides in Asheville, NC.

1964

Thomas Coomer, Fd '61, and Barbara Coomer reside in Versailles, KY and enjoy attending reunions at Berea and welcoming Berean visitors.

Dr. Alma L. Watson is an assistant professor in the college of education at East Tennessee State University. She resides in Johnson City, TN.

1966

Dan R. Bush retired last year from New York Life insurance company after nearly 30 years. He and Sandi, his wife, relocated to the Pensacola, FL area.

Bonnie Riddle Carriker and **James E. Carriker, II, Cx '65**, are retired. She earned a master's of education, and a master's of library science degree, and completed National Board Certification as a media specialist. They reside in Massanutten, VA.

1967

Robert Pinney and **Ann Francisco Pinney, '68**, are retired schoolteachers. He runs a summer golf instruction program for youth and she enjoys quilting and sewing. They reside in Logan, OH.

1968

Constance Spencer-Ackerman is the director of the Adult Education Academy For Professional Development at Morehead State University. She resides in Morehead, KY.

Paul W. Chappell would like to hear from classmates of his and **Angel Netto Chappell**, now deceased. He resides in Cape Coral, FL.

1969

Mary Knight Keller, Marie Tychonievich, Linda Pratt Orr, '71, Linda Helleson Appanaitis, and Jan Hill Reid were reunited at the Berea

College 2009 reunion.

Rita Murray Storie retired in 2001 after 32 years teaching science and math in North Carolina. She started a second career teaching sixth grade in Mountain City, TN and owns A Plus Realty near Boone, NC. She resides in Sugar Grove, NC.

1974

Jessica Wrenn Ellis is a disability manager at Evergreen Packaging, Inc. and **V. Carson Ellis, Cx '74**, is a grocery manager at Ingle's. They have three sons and two grandsons. They reside in Candler, NC.

1977

Sumit Ganguly is a professor of political science and director of the India Studies Program at Indiana University. He took leave from this position to be the Ngee Ann Professor of International Politics at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore during Spring 2010 term. His book with S. Paul Kapur, *India, Pakistan and the Bomb: Debating Nuclear Stability in South Asia*, was published in February. Last year he received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award from the government of India. He resides in Bloomington, IN.

1978

John I. Alexander is principal of Grayson Highlands School. The school's music program promotes Bluegrass and old-time mountain music. **Susan McGuffin Alexander** is a Title I teacher at Providence Elementary in Grayson County. They reside in Independence, VA.

Eunice Hall is president of the Humane Society of Cobb County. For the past 25 years she has been employed with Dow AgroSciences. She resides in Acworth, GA.

Denise Marrs Shafer has been teaching early childhood special education since 1978. She has two sons and two grandchildren. She and Jerry, her husband, reside in Grundy, VA.

1979

Rita Baisden King and Kevin

King are proud grandparents of three grandchildren. She is retired and they reside in Galloway, OH.

1980

Married: Jackie Collier to **Larry Riddle** on December 29, 2009. She is director of alumni relations at Eastern Kentucky University and he works in non-profit management. They reside in Richmond, KY.

William A. Lozier is a technical lead software engineer for the Ares I Upper Stage avionics development at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. He was awarded a Technical Fellowship at Jacobs Technology Inc. He resides in Huntsville, AL.

Tandy McConnell is a professor at Columbia College. He resides in Charlotte, NC.

1984

Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews is part of the Scottish music duo Two Men In Skirts. They recently released their CD, *Two Men In Skirts: the Music of Scotland* (www.TwoMenInSkirts.com). **Eric Crowden** was involved in creation of the cover art, with photographs by Jon Pickow, a folk musician and son of folk legend Jean Ritchie, who performed at Berea in the 80s. Gaitley and Jim Stevenson-Mathews reside on Long Island, NY.

1985

Margaret Walker Herren is employed at Park Community Federal Credit Union in Berea, KY. She has two sons, five stepsons, and seven grandchildren. She and Gary M. Herren, her husband, reside in Berea.

1986

Dr. Donna Fick is an associate professor in Penn State's School of Nursing. She was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing as one of its 2009 fellows for her outstanding achievements in the nursing profession. She resides in Boalsburg, PA.

1988

Marisa Christman Dungan is manager of Sunlink Solar, LLC, a growing solar products and installation

company in Somerset, KY. She resides in Nancy, KY.

1992

Menelaos Karamichalis is a systems engineer at Wildblue Communications, Inc. in Greenwood Village, CO. He and his family reside in Denver, where they enjoy the mountains and good weather.

Troy Sanford is principal of Horizon Academy in Ocala, FL, where he resides. He earned a master's degree in education leadership from NOVA Southeastern University and began his career as a Spanish teacher.

1996

Married: Shelley Fort Oldham to Ben Oldham on September 12, 2008. They reside on a small farm outside Ripley, WV with their animals.

1997

James Clay Carrier was one of three finalists for the Kentucky Elementary Teacher of the Year. He teaches primary math and library media at McKinney Elementary School in Lincoln County, Kentucky. He and **Amy Kathleen McCray Carrier, '00**, reside in Waynesburg, KY.

Kevin K. Saechao is employed in social services at Alameda County Social Services Agency. He and Stephanie V. Tang, his wife, reside in Oakland, CA with their three children.

John T. Webb is a vice president in human resources for Credit Suisse and manages the retirement plans and benefits for the Americas. He is an enrolled retirement plan agent with the Internal Revenue Service, a Qualified Pension Administrator with the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries, and accredited pension representative with the National Institute of Pension Administrators. He resides in Cary, NC.

1998

Birth: a daughter, Isabella Ann Hess, to **Ryan Hess** and Libby Hess on November 10, 2009. The family resides in Berea, KY.



Mary Knight Keller, '69; Marie Tychonievich, '69; Donna Dean, '69; Linda Pratt Orr, '71; Linda Helleson Appanaitis, '69; Jan Hill Reid, '69



Sumit Ganguly, '77



Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, '84 (r) and Jim Stevenson-Mathews



Menelaos Karamichalis, '92, and family

1999

Birth: a daughter, Emma Ruth Tucker, to **Linda Lawson Tucker** and **Craig Alan Tucker**, '01, on November 4, 2008. Linda is a sales specialist at Lowe's and Craig is employed by the state of North Carolina. The family resides in Webster, NC.

2000

Married: **Rebecca A. Haynes** to John G. Paull in May of 2009 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. They reside in Columbus, OH.

Birth: a daughter, Alivia Lynn Jackson, to **Amy Cotter Jackson** and Gary Jackson on May 8, 2009. Amy is a teacher and the family resides in Morristown, TN.

Melissa Gassman Kaiza received a master of science in applied information technology from Towson University in January 2010. She resides in Baltimore, MD.

Almah LaVon Rice won the 2009 National Ethnic Media Award from New America Media. She resides in Santa Fe, NM.

Birth: a daughter, Ariana Gabrielle Willis, to **Asala McCoy Willis** and Aaron Willis on August 11, 2009. The family resides in Ashland, KY and includes a son, Zion Aaron.

2002

Birth: a son, Elijah Nicholas, to **Renata Montgomery Farmer** and **Adam Farmer**, '04, on October 11, 2009. They have another son, Gabriel, and reside in Girdler, KY.

Birth: a son, Parker Kuentler Weiner, to **Patricia Bryant Weiner** and **Mike Weiner**, on October 8, 2009. Mike is a systems analyst at Berea College. Patricia teaches in Berea. In 2008 she received a master's in art education from the University of the Cumberlands and an Excellence in Teaching Award from Campbellsville University. The family resides in Berea, KY and includes another son, Austin.

Birth: a son, Alden Obie Williams, to **Obie Williams** and **Katherine Webb Williams**, '03, on September 27, 2009. Obie is a graphic designer with the Department of Fish

& Wildlife. The family resides in Frankfort, KY.

2003

Married: **G. Marian Cooper** to Patrick McLaughlin on December 15, 2007. She is the executive assistant at Walters Power International, an international electric power generation company. He is a firearms examiner with Oklahoma City Police Department's forensic laboratory. They reside in Oklahoma City, OK.

2004

Crystal Baldwin is an outreach specialist at the Attorney General and the University of Vermont's Community Assistance Program. She resides in Montpelier, VT.

Married: **Novruz Bashirov** to Narmin Musaeva on August 19, 2009. He graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in May. They reside in Philadelphia, PA.

Dustin Busler is a special education math teacher at Madison Southern High School in Berea, where he resides. He also coaches football and track.

Married: **Christina Caul** to Donté Jackson on October 10, 2009. She is an equal employment opportunity specialist and he is an associate minister and employed with West Virginia State University. They reside in Charleston, WV.

Married: **Renee Lamance** to Zach Kilmer on October 17, 2009. She is employed at Cutshaw Chiropractic Center in Andrews, NC. The couple resides in Murphy, NC.

Birth: a daughter, Christina E. Settles, to **Carl J. Settles III** and **Nikkiah C. Williams**, '05, on May 17, 2009. Carl is a banker and Nikkiah is a special education high school teacher. The family resides in Conyers, GA.

2005

Traci Bray and **C.J. Bloomer**, her husband, own and operate Silver Wheel Yarn, a weaving studio specializing in handwoven heirloom quality textiles, delicate hand-spinning, knitting pattern design, and education

in these crafts. Their work can be seen in local Lexington and Frankfort stores and on the Web. They reside in Lexington, KY.

2006

Birth: a daughter, Noel Celeste, to **Bradley Fletcher** and **Carrie Watson** on December 28, 2009. He is an assistant county attorney in Estill County and an associate in Davis Law, PSC in Irvine, KY. The family resides in Berea, KY.

Married: **Seth Stair** to Chelsea Petersen on September 19, 2009.

2007

Holly Branscum received a master's degree in education from the University of Louisville in December 2009. She resides in Louisville, KY.

Melissa Sherell Kennedy is a teacher assistant and has worked in this position for three years. She resides in Hueytown, AL.

Princess Nash is in the Peace Corps and is working with community health education and promotion in Guyana, South America.

2008

Married: **Allison Butts** to Carl Wargo on August 29, 2009. They reside in Annapolis, MD.

Married: **Ashley Williams Edge** to Dustin Jace Edge on July 11, 2009. She is a bilingual teller for Branch Banking and Trust. They reside in Owensboro, KY.

College Officers: 2009-10

David E. Shelton, '69
Chair of the Board
Nancy E. Blair
Vice Chair of the Board
Larry D. Shinn
President
Carolyn R. Newton
Academic Vice President and Provost
Stephanie P. Browner
Dean of the Faculty
Gail W. Wolford
Vice President for Labor and Student Life
Steven D. Karcher
Vice President for Business & Administration
Jeffrey Amburgey
Vice President for Finance
William A. Laramée
Vice President for Alumni and College Relations
Judge B. Wilson II, '78
Secretary

College Trustees: 2009-10

David E. Shelton, '69
Chair of the Board
Nancy E. Blair
Vice Chair of the Board
Larry D. Shinn
President of the College
Vicki E. Allums, '79
Charlotte F. Beason, '70
Vance Blade, '82
Lynne Blankenship Caldwell, '78
David H. Chow
Jan Hunley Crase, Cx'60
M. Elizabeth Culbreth, '64
Chella S. David, '61
John E. Fleming, '66
Glenn R. Fuhrman
Jim Gray
Heather Sturt Haaga
Donna S. Hall
Scott M. Jenkins
Shawn C.D. Johnson
Lucinda Rawlings Laird
Brenda Todd Larsen
Jim Lewis, '70
Eugene Y. Lowe, Jr.
Elissa May-Plattner
Geraldine F. McManus
Harold L. Moses, '58
Douglas M. Orr
Thomas W. Phillips, '65
William B. Richardson
Dennis R. Roop, '69
Charles Ward Seabury, II
Mark Stitzer
David O. Welch, '55
Dawneda F. Williams
Eugene A. Woods
Drausin F. Wulsin
Robert T. Yahng, '63

Honorary Trustees: 2009-10

Alberta Wood Allen
John Alden Auxier, '51
James T. Bartlett
Jack Buchanan, '46
Martin A. Coyle
Frederic L. Dupree, Jr., V-12 '45
Kate Ireland
Juanita M. Kreps, '42
Alice R. Manicur, '54
Thomas H. Oliver
Kroger Pettengill
David S. Swanson
R. Elton White, '65



Narmin Musaeva and Novruz Bashirov, '04



Allison Butts, '08, and Carl Wargo



Ashley Williams Edge, '08, and Dustin Jace Edge

IN MEMORIAM

The "In Memoriam" section of the *Berea College Magazine* honors Bereans who have passed away. If you know of a Berean who has died, please let the Alumni Association know by sending a copy of the obituary to CPO 2203, Berea, KY 40404. Or you may e-mail diana_taylor@berea.edu. We make every effort to put your information into the next issue. Due to printing schedules, some delays are typical. We appreciate your understanding. Please include the person's class year or connection to Berea, and the day and place of death.

Faculty & Staff

Dewey Allen of Berea, KY died December 24, 2009. He worked many years in Woodcraft before his retirement in 2009. He is survived by Bettie Powell Allen, his wife, a son, two stepdaughters, and a stepson.

Dave Bowman of Berea, KY died December 4, 2009. He taught in the General Studies Department for several years. He is survived by Lee Willey, his wife of 37 years, a daughter, and a son.

Teddy Burke of Berea, KY died November 10, 2009. He was a U.S. Army veteran and an electrician in Facilities Management for many years prior to his 2001 retirement. He is survived by Theresa Collins and Ted Burke, his children.

Vinson Carpenter of Berea, KY died November 8, 2009. He was a paint supervisor in Facilities Management and retired after 40 years of employment. He is survived by Rodney E. Carpenter, his son.

Cherie Boshers Isaacs of Berea, KY died November 16, 2009. She worked as an administrative assistant in Information Systems and Services for many years. She is survived by Mason Isaacs, her husband, two daughters, and a son.

Lou Lakes of Berea, KY died November 3, 2009. She served as

director of Planned Giving for many years prior to her retirement in 2002. She is survived by Fred Lakes, her husband, a daughter, and a son.

Dr. Harry Robie of Berea, KY died December 3, 2009. He taught English from 1985 to 1995. After his retirement from Berea College, he and Laura, his wife, founded Robie and Robie: Fine Books in Berea. He is survived by Laura Rector Robie, his wife, three sons, and **Sarabeth Brown Robie, Cx '92**, his daughter.

Leona Wilkinson, formerly of Berea, KY, died December 26, 2009. She and her late husband owned and operated the Ben Franklin Store in Berea and she retired from Food Service several years ago. She is survived by Dawn Freeman and Linda Jones, her daughters.

1930s

Mary Frances Whiteside Hayes of Dallas, TX died August 3, 2009. She played the organ, taught piano, and gave voice lessons. She was the widow of **Dr. E. Russell Hayes, Cx '30**, and is survived by Carolyn Ball and Anne Lacy, her daughters.

Dorcas Ferguson Campbell, '32, of Tuscumbia, MO died October 1, 2006. She is survived by Lois Marie Akers, Wallace Campbell, and Jim Campbell, her children.

Betty Adams Kazee, '32, of Warren County, OH died December 5, 2009. She was a school teacher for 35 years. She is survived by Glenda Sue Hall, her daughter.

Eleanor Martha Miller, Cx '32, of Sun City, AZ died November 3, 2009. She was employed with the U.S. Department of Defense, and her work during her career took her to 72 countries. She retired in 1975 from Headquarters Pacific Air Force Command in Honolulu, HI. She is survived by James M. Gratz, Jr. and Michael B. Gratz, Sr., her nephews.

Avaleah Lafferty Combs, '35, of Thousand Oaks, CA died July 18, 2009.

Polly Lengfellner Wyatt, Acad '35, of Berea, KY died September 29,

2005. She is survived by Charles E. Wyatt, her husband.

Charlotte Allie Ray Playforth of Lancaster, KY died December 24, 2009. She was a member of the Garrard County Hospital Auxiliary. She is the widow of the late **Dr. O.S. Playforth, '36**, and is survived by Geri Decker and Sandra Poces, her daughters.

Roy Estes Brockman, Jr., '37, of Saint George, UT died November 3, 2009. He taught English and was an inspector at Atlantic Smokeless Coal Company, a distributor for Shell Oil Company, and assistant clerk of the circuit court for Seminole County as statistician until his retirement in 1986. He is survived by Glenna Brockman, his wife of 68 years, and a daughter.

Clay Alton Colson, '37, of Brodhead, KY died October 12, 2009. He served in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He was a Rockcastle County soil conservationist for 31 years. After retirement he farmed full time and served as an officer of the Kentucky Cattleman's Association, and on the board of directors of various farm associations. He is survived by William, Robert, Charles, and David Colson, his sons.

Nancy Lambert Williams, '37, of Berea, KY died January 11, 2010. She was a retired Rockcastle County Board of Education director of pupil personnel services. She is survived by Judy Cummins, Dotty Parsons, and Wesley Williams, her children.

Doris Grotewohl Baker, '38, of Galveston, TX died September 15, 2009. She is survived by George R. Baker, her husband.

Dr. Claud Scroggs, '38, of Richmond, VA died November 1, 2009. Career positions he held were director of economic research, college professor, and agricultural economist. He co-authored a textbook referenced by states and universities today and continued to publish throughout his career. He received numerous awards and honors.

Ruth Litton Shepherd, Cx '38, of Ypsilanti, MI died October 9, 2009. She was a schoolteacher in Kentucky. She is survived by Stanton, Marilyn, Jannette, Douglas, and Bradley, her children.

Josephine Jackson House, '39, of Gainesville, FL died October 20, 2009. She was a fourth-grade teacher for many years and traveled widely. She danced with her nephew at her 70th college reunion at Berea in June 2009. She is survived by Steve (Marsha) Tilden, her nephew; Krista Tilden, her niece; Zachary and

Jonathan House, her grandsons; a daughter-in-law; and three other nieces.

1940s

Fred William Brown, Jr., '40, of Erie, PA died September 20, 2009. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He retired as a chemist from Sherwin-Williams Company in Chicago after 30 years. He is survived by Robert Edward Brown and Jim Brown, his sons.

Judy Martin Gaston, '40, of Gastonia, NC died November 8, 2009. She was employed by the Gaston County Schools for more than 20 years and the majority of her working life was spent as a guidance counselor. She is survived by **Henry Gaston Sr., '39**, her husband of 68 years, two sons, and a daughter.

Mr. Kay P. Hoffsommer, Cx '40, of Buffalo, NY died November 25, 2006.

Theodora "Ted" Skean Robertson, Cx '40, of Knoxville, TN died November 6, 2009. She was a registered nurse and retired from nursing to raise her children. She is survived by her children.

Harold D. Rosenbaum, MD, '41, of Lexington, KY died January 3, 2010. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and chairman emeritus of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center. He performed the first heart catheterization done in Kentucky and was the first chairman of radiology at the Chandler Medical Center. He is survived by Doris Fooks Rosenbaum, his wife of 39 years, three sons, and three daughters.

Harold S. Walters, '41, of Keyser, WV died November 20, 2009. He was a major in the U.S. Air Force and retired after 10 years of service. He taught school for more than 32 years and served as the first state park naturalist in West Virginia at Blackwater Falls State Park where the nature center is named after him. He is survived by Edie Forsythe Walters, his wife of 56 years, three sons, and three daughters.

Glendon Lewis Crow, '42, of Tuscumbia, AL died January 6, 2010. He was a metallurgical engineer in the chemical development laboratory at Tennessee Valley Authority and retired in 1981 after 35 years of service. He is survived by Evelenia P. Crow, his wife of 63 years, and two sons.

Eugene F. "Gene" Smith, '42, of Barefoot Bay, FL died December 23, 2009. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and received a Purple Heart. He worked for the Jewel Tea



Harry Robie



Ruth Litton Shepherd, Cx '38



Josephine Jackson House, '39

Company in Salem, VA. He is survived by **Virginia Cooper Smith, '43**, his wife of 67 years, and a son.

Ann DeJarnette Donnally, '43, of McMinnville, OR died November 29, 2009. She worked with the Red Cross during World War II and married an officer in the Navy. They lived in many places, including Southern France and Greece. She and her husband owned a prize-winning 60-acre tree farm in Oregon. She is survived by Elizabeth Donnally Davidson and Mary Donnally Lamoreux, her daughters.

Virgie Herrin Fuller, '43, of Somerset, KY died November 3, 2009. She taught college preparatory math classes. In 1960 she introduced the pre-college math curriculum to the Somerset High School system. She is survived by Hugh Kenneth Fuller and Marilyn Fuller Burns, her children.

Robert Scott Jones, Jr., Navy V-12 '43-'44, of Hampton Bays, NY died June 11, 2009. He and George Tetzl, his partner, owned Ada's Attic, an antique and collectibles business, for 35 years. He is survived by George Tetzl and a sister.

Marc T. Campbell, Navy V-12 '43-'44, of San Diego, CA died December 4, 2008. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and an academic librarian for 38 years. He is survived by Leslie Anne Campbell and Marc Bradley, his children.

John A. McGovern, Jr., Navy V-12 '43-'44, of Bayville, NJ died December 15, 2008. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He was employed 35 years in the office of the comptroller for Public Service Enterprise Group and was an adjunct professor of accounting. He is survived by Jack McGovern, Jeffrey McGovern, Mark McGovern, and Lisa Pirozzi, his children.

Floyd Ayres Thomasson, Jr., Navy V-12 '43-'44, of Lexington, KY died October 15, 2009. He was a U.S. Navy lieutenant and veteran of World War II and spent his entire career with Ashland Oil, Inc. He is survived by Joan C. Thomasson, his wife of 60 years, and three sons.

Mitchell H. Mankosa, Navy V-12 '44-'45, of Weirton, WV died May 10, 2009. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and worked as an electrician for Weirton Steel for 38 years before his retirement. He is survived by Pauline Sobol Mankosa, his wife, and two sons.

Emmet "Kay" Keyser, Cx '44, of Simi Valley, CA died September 3, 2008. He was a tool and die maker at Lockheed, watchmaker, builder, real estate broker, financial manager, and decorated World War II veteran receiving the Bronze Star. He is

survived by Jean Lannin Keyser, his former wife, two sons, and two daughters.

Sean Dodson Stewart, '44, of Lexington, KY died October 26, 2009. She was a teacher for 21 years in the Bourbon County School System. She is survived by Keith and Tony, her sons.

James D. Thomason, Cx '44, of Dallas, GA died January 1, 2010. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and an educator for more than 30 years in Alabama and Georgia. He is survived by Fidelia Thomason, Doug Thomason, Sharon Thomason, Hugh Thomason, and Judy Spencer, his children.

Tillmon West of DeWitt, AR died September 14, 2009. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He was a farmer and also worked for a wholesale grocery. He is survived by **Ellen Hillman West, '44**, his wife of 64 years, two sons, and one daughter.

Betty Swanson Doddridge, Acad '45, of South Shore, KY died October 30, 2007. She was a homemaker. She is survived by Charles H. "Herb" Doddridge, her son.

Mabel B. Ingraham, '45, of Nashville, TN died April 21, 2009.

Anne Winifred Coates Nichols, '45, of Elkhorn City, KY died October 14, 2009. She is survived by Nancy Nichols Jones, Cathy Nichols Francisco, Kim Nichols Smith, and David N. Nichols, her children.

Corsie Croucher Collins, '48, of Whitesburg, KY died August 21, 2009. She was a retired teacher. She is survived by William M. Collins and Kathryn Cook, her children.

Winifred Garvin Lueking, Cx '48, of Clearwater, FL died May 16, 2008.

Dr. Jack Kenneth Hale, '49, of Atlanta, GA died December 9, 2009. He spent many years teaching and doing research in mathematics at Brown University in Rhode Island and Georgia Institute of Technology. Throughout his career he received numerous awards. He is survived by **Hazel Reynolds Hale, '48**, his wife of 60 years.

Etta Cundiff Manning, '49, of Columbus, OH died April 23, 2003. She was a retired special education teacher and a pioneer in her field. She is survived by Michael Manning, Jerry Manning, and Catherine Manning, her children.

1950s

Dr. Beech F. Hollon, '50, of Cornersville, TN died November 8, 2008. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He was a scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and retired from the University of Tennessee Dairy Research and

Education Center. He is survived by Nan Brumback Hollon, his wife, and two sons.

James D. Kessinger of Williamson, WV died February 18, 2009. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and retired as a clerk from the U.S. Postal Service after 37 years of service. He is survived by **Mary L. Shultz Kessinger, '50**, his wife, a daughter, and a son.

Bernadine Murphy Lewis, Cx '50, of Laguna Woods, CA died May 28, 2009.

Elizabeth Ann "Lib" Aiken Pace, '50, of Hendersonville, NC died January 20, 2010. She was a nurse in a private practice during the '50s and later was employed at Pardee Memorial Hospital in intensive care and as a second-shift supervisor. She retired from full-time employment in 1994 and worked part-time for seven more years. She is survived by Stuart Lee Pace, her son.

Jane Elizabeth Parker of Penney Farms, FL died December 10, 2009. She was a homemaker, clerk, and assistant store manager during her children's college years. She is survived by **Richard Parker, '50**, her husband of 55 years, two sons, and two daughters.

Virginia Colleen Wheeler Sandridge, Cx '50, of Millwood, WV died April 27, 2009.

Jeane Cochran Gorman, Cx '51, of Mount Prospect, IL died November 11, 2009. Early in her life she was a contract player for RKO Studios in Hollywood, CA. Later she became a commercial illustrator in Chicago and was a talented artist. Most recently she taught the English language to students at the Des Plaines Public Library. She is survived by William Gorman, her husband, a son, and a daughter.

Mary Ann Ledbetter Mobley, '51, of Orlando, FL died November 10, 2009. She was a registered nurse and a dedicated caregiver, providing the highest quality of nursing to her patients for 42 years. She is survived by **Dual D. Mobley, '53**, her husband of 55 years, and a son-in-law.

Lois Ann Abels Pike, '51, of Parkersburg, WV died January 10, 2010. She was retired from the West Hartford, CT school system, where she held support and administrative positions for nearly 20 years. She is survived by Laura Coombs, her daughter, and Morris D. Pike, her former husband and dear friend.

Theodore W. Price, Fd '51, of Bellevue, NE died July 21, 2001.

Margaret Smith McDonald, '52, of Pueblo, CO died November 9, 2009. Early in her career she tested variations of what would become marketed as "White Out," and she also worked at

North American Aviation as an editor of flight manuals of experimental aircraft, which required a high governmental security clearance. She is survived by Tom McDonald, her husband, two sons, and a daughter.

Dr. Lewis C. Bell, '53, of Morgantown, WV died November 9, 2009. He was director of purchasing for the Commonwealth of Kentucky before beginning his career as professor of business and economics. He was widely published in his field and the recipient of numerous academic honors. He is survived by **Dolores E Bell, '54**, his wife of 58 years, and three sons.

William F. Ross, Cx '53, of Zachary, LA died October 15, 2008.

Claude George Tisinger, Jr, '54, of Dover, DE died December 29, 2009. During his career he taught high school science and biology, and was a science supervisor, curriculum supervisor, and administrative assistant to the superintendent of schools. He is survived by **Mary Emma Childers Tisinger, '55**, his wife, a son, and two daughters.

Dr. Ying N. Chiu, '55, of Silver Spring, MD died July 18, 2009. He is survived by Dr. Lue Yung Chow Chiu, his wife.

John Harris, '55, of Boca Raton, FL died October 9, 2009. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. He worked for the *National Enquirer* and was once interviewed by "60 Minutes." After retirement he freelanced for several newspapers in the Boca Raton and Miami, FL area. He is survived by his mother, two sisters, and extended family.

Gladys Mae Sanko Telesca, '55, of Raleigh, NC died November 13, 2009. She was an elementary schoolteacher and, more recently, a reader at Measurement Inc. in Durham. She is survived by Chris, Maria, and Michael, her children.

Lenial Brown "L.B." Cox, Fd '56, of Elkin, NC died October 6, 2009. He was a retired tool and die maker. He is survived by **Michaela Gabbard Cox, Fd '56**, his wife.

Jimmy Lee Bailey, '58, of Fairfax, VA died November 29, 2009. He is survived by John Carlton Corbin, his lifelong partner, and Margie Bailey Andrews and Genell Bailey Clements, his sisters.

Dr. Bob Gene Raines, '58, of Abingdon, VA died December 18, 2009. During his career he was a high school physics and mathematics teacher, college instructor and professor of mathematics, director of admissions, assistant superintendent, deputy superintendent for instruction, superintendent of schools, and professor emeritus of Emory & Henry

College. He received numerous awards. He is survived by Juanita Raines, his wife, two sons, and two stepsons.

Clarence D. White, Cx '58, of Knoxville, TN died January 11, 2010. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran and retired from Radford University as associate dean of applied science after more than 30 years of service. He is survived by Helen Bledsoe, his aunt.

1960s

Anna Mae Childers, '60, of Russell, KY died July 30, 2008. She was a retired social worker. She is survived by John M. Childers, Jr. and J.C. Childers, her brothers, and Mildred Goff, her sister.

James "Big Jim" Hawthorne, Cx '60, Fd. '56, of Rogersville, TN died July 15, 2009. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He retired as vice president of BASF Corporation after 32 years. He is survived by Helen Carty Hawthorne, his wife of 52 years, and four daughters.

Donald H. Higgins of Lake Worth, FL died October 6, 2009. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and a retired public relations director. He is survived by **Connie Compton Higgins, '63**, his wife of 42 years, and two sons.

Dr. Sam E. Cecil, '64, of Stanton, KY died October 24, 2009. He opened his family medical practice office in Stanton in 1970 and served the Powell County area until his death. He is survived by **Anne Hadley Cecil, '66**, his wife of 43 years, and two sons.

Wanda C. Hopper of Flowery Branch, GA died August 31, 2009. She is survived by **Gerald Peter Hopper, '64**, her husband.

Phyllis Dean Ward Stidham, '64, of Hazard, KY died August 10, 1988. She is survived by Fred Stidham, her husband.

Dr. Daniel Frederick Daniel, '66, of Winfield, KS died December 13, 2009. He taught English literature at Southwestern College in Kansas for

39 years before retiring in 2008 and wrote a weekly column for the *Winfield Daily Courier*. In 1992 he was the originator of an integrated studies program for freshmen and sophomores which gained national attention and was adopted by other colleges. He is survived by Rachel Daniel Green, his daughter, and L. Marshall Daniel, his father.

Terry Taylor Mull, '68, of Tucson, AZ died December 21, 2009. She retired from Tucson Newspapers Inc. after 19 years of service, and she was the chair for Berea's Arizona Club. She is survived by Rev. Chuck Mull, her husband, and Farrah, her daughter.

Patricia Severson Forst, '69, of Swannanoa, NC died October 5, 2009. She was a county home health nurse and was employed at the Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Center as a registered nurse. She is survived by Jim Forst, her husband, a daughter, and a son.

Mary Knight Keller, '69, of East

Chester, PA died December 2, 2009. She was a medical technician at Duke Medical Center for 13 years. She attended her 40th reunion at Berea College in the summer of 2009. She is survived by Paul M. Keller, her husband of 36 years, and two sons.

1970s

Peter Michael Gillstrap, Cx '72, of Campton, KY died November 15, 2009. He opened Lexington's first comedy club, "Comedy on Broadway," in 1987. He is survived by Sheila Bumgardner Gillstrap, his wife of 39 years, and two daughters.

Forgotten Links to Berea's History

By Robert Moore, '13

What is the connection between the Robert H. Williams Cultural Center in Lexington, Kentucky, Camp Nelson in Nicholasville, Kentucky, and Berea College?

The answer is Eliza Belle Mitchell Jackson, born December 31, 1848, in Perryville, Kentucky. Her parents, Mary and Monroe Mitchell, bought their freedom before the Civil War. In 1865 she was hired by Reverend John G. Fee to teach at Camp Nelson.

She was the first and only African American teacher at the Camp, which was being used to educate African American soldiers and their families. The other teachers, members of the American Missionary Association (AMA), refused to share living quarters or eat with her. When an Army officer tried to remove her from Fee's table, Fee said, "I will suffer my right arm torn from my body before I will remove the young woman."

One Saturday when Fee was absent, the camp commander ordered her to leave. Mitchell coolly replied that her wash was out and she wouldn't travel on the Sabbath. Despite the best efforts of the AMA, Mitchell was forced out of Camp Nelson.

In 1866, she became one of the first students at the reopened Berea College. She left school to marry Lexington, Kentucky businessman Jordan Carlisle Jackson, who was also a trustee at both Wilberforce and Berea colleges. His brother, John, was one of Berea's first African American graduates.

In 1892, a group of African American women led by E. Belle Mitchell Jackson created the Colored Orphan Industrial Home in Lexington, where they distributed food, shelter, and clothing to destitute children. The Home also served as a nursing home, a hospital, a lending institution, and a school.

Belle served on the board of managers of the Home for 50 years. The facility continues to serve the community to this day as the Robert H. Williams Cultural Center.

WEB LINKS



p. 8
Cooperative Extension Service

www.extension.org

p. 10
Hindman Settlement School

www.hindmansettlement.org

p. 26
Christian Appalachian Project

www.christianapp.org

p. 28
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

www.kchr.ky.gov





Daniel Schlagel, '10, Josh Best, '13, Rodney Goodson, '11, and John Kossack, '11, intramural flag football game on Alumni Field. photo by Aaron Gilmour, '12