

BEREA COLLEGE

MAGAZINE

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Value of Free

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Blue, the College's new mascot, gives high-fives to students during a Homecoming pep rally hosted by CAB in the main arena of the Seabury Center on Nov. 14. Pres. Lyle Roelofs unveiled Blue at the beginning of the rally, which also included door prizes, giveaways, fun activities for the campus community and the marching band from Simmons College in Louisville. The new mascot will complement the long-standing nickname, The Mountaineers.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Berea Alumni and Friends,

When something I want is free, I tend to get pretty excited. Whether it's the buy-one, get-one-free Black Friday deal or cashing in reward points for free gear or gift cards, I love feeling like I got a good deal.

In 1998, after my brother had received a free ride to the University of Louisville for his athletic abilities, I began looking for ways I could afford to go to college. I knew free was probably out of reach—I didn't possess that same level of athletic talent, and while my grades and test scores were good, full scholarships were almost impossible to obtain. I submitted to early-bird deadlines in hopes of larger financial assistance. I applied to every scholarship opportunity I came across, yet by the middle of my senior year, I had only received half-tuition scholarships to several institutions. Coming up with the other half of tuition was not feasible for my family.

And then I received a package in the mail telling me I had been nominated for a full-tuition scholarship at Berea College. I had never heard of Berea, but I read all the materials in the packet, sent in my application and prayed.

Meer weeks before graduation, I received my Berea acceptance letter—I was actually going to college completely tuition free! There was no better feeling.

Fast forward 23 years (wow, that hurts to type) and the value of that free education is so much clearer to me. What Berea gave me didn't just set me free financially, it set me free to pursue a career I love.

I started out as a biology major at Berea because I thought a career in the medical field would break me free of the financial struggles we had growing up. But professors like Dr. Megan Hoffman and Dr. Stephanie Browner, who listened to my fears and passions and encouraged me to pursue what I loved most, changed everything. Because I graduated with nearly no debt, I was able to take those foot-in-the-door jobs, writing and designing for small-town newspapers, to gain experience.

You see, that is the true value of Berea's free education—it is the mentorship of faculty who genuinely care about the whole student, inside and outside of the classroom. It's the chance for one-on-one sessions with brilliant convocation speakers that lead to extraordinary internships. It's the opportunity to thrive in a community of students without feeling less-than because of my economic background. It's having labor supervisors, like Chris Miller, who doled out high levels of responsibility so I could learn how to lead projects successfully in a work setting. It's the opportunity to buy my first home less than a year after graduation because there was no debt hanging over my head.

At Berea, the value of free goes well beyond a tuition-free promise, and for me, it was an exceptional deal.

Explore this issue of the *Berea College Magazine* and discover many more stories that exemplify the value of Berea's tuition-free education, and join us in the national conversation about free college tuition.

Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03
Editor

Understanding the Problem

By Dan Adams

On Oct. 13, 2018, the Berea College website had the largest single-day traffic spike in its history. Two days earlier, Adam Harris had written an article about Berea for *The Atlantic* titled: “The little college where tuition is free and every student is given a job.”

That article started a chain of coverage and news segments that effectively doubled Berea’s daily web page views for a year. The College was the subject of articles and highlighted by news organizations like CNN, CBS and NPR.

At a time when student loan debt warnings had been growing and building in intensity, the article was timely and it

resonated with people. It still does.

That’s because U.S. student-loan debt has become a \$1.8 trillion crisis, twice that of credit-card debt and is the second highest category of consumer debt, behind only mortgages.

The burden of student debt has been growing out of proportion with earning potential as well. The price of education is rising eight times faster than earnings. It means that the debt that some students are taking on is outpaced by their ability to pay it off.

The student-debt crisis is also one that disproportionately impacts economically disadvantaged students and families, the same students and families Berea College serves. The 2018 spike in web

traffic shows how focused people are on this problem. Could Berea College have the answer?

Berea College’s funding model was (and still is) progressive for its time. Instead of treating education as a consumer good to be paid for in tuition by students, Berea College puts its endowment to work investing it for the purpose of offsetting a large portion of every student’s tuition, leaving just 9 percent of the College’s operating budget to be raised every year. We are continually fundraising.

In *The Atlantic* article, Harris teased, “can other schools replicate the model?”

The answer is yes. There are plenty of colleges with much larger endowments

than Berea, and they could choose to be tuition free tomorrow. But for schools that don’t have large endowments, investing wouldn’t yield enough to offset operational expenses. Additionally, Berea’s model doesn’t scale well. Even with investing our endowment, Berea College is only able to offer Tuition Promise Scholarships to 1,600-plus students each year. Berea is the most selective college in Kentucky for that reason—it has more applicants than it is able to accommodate. Other schools can replicate the model, but it doesn’t solve the problem.

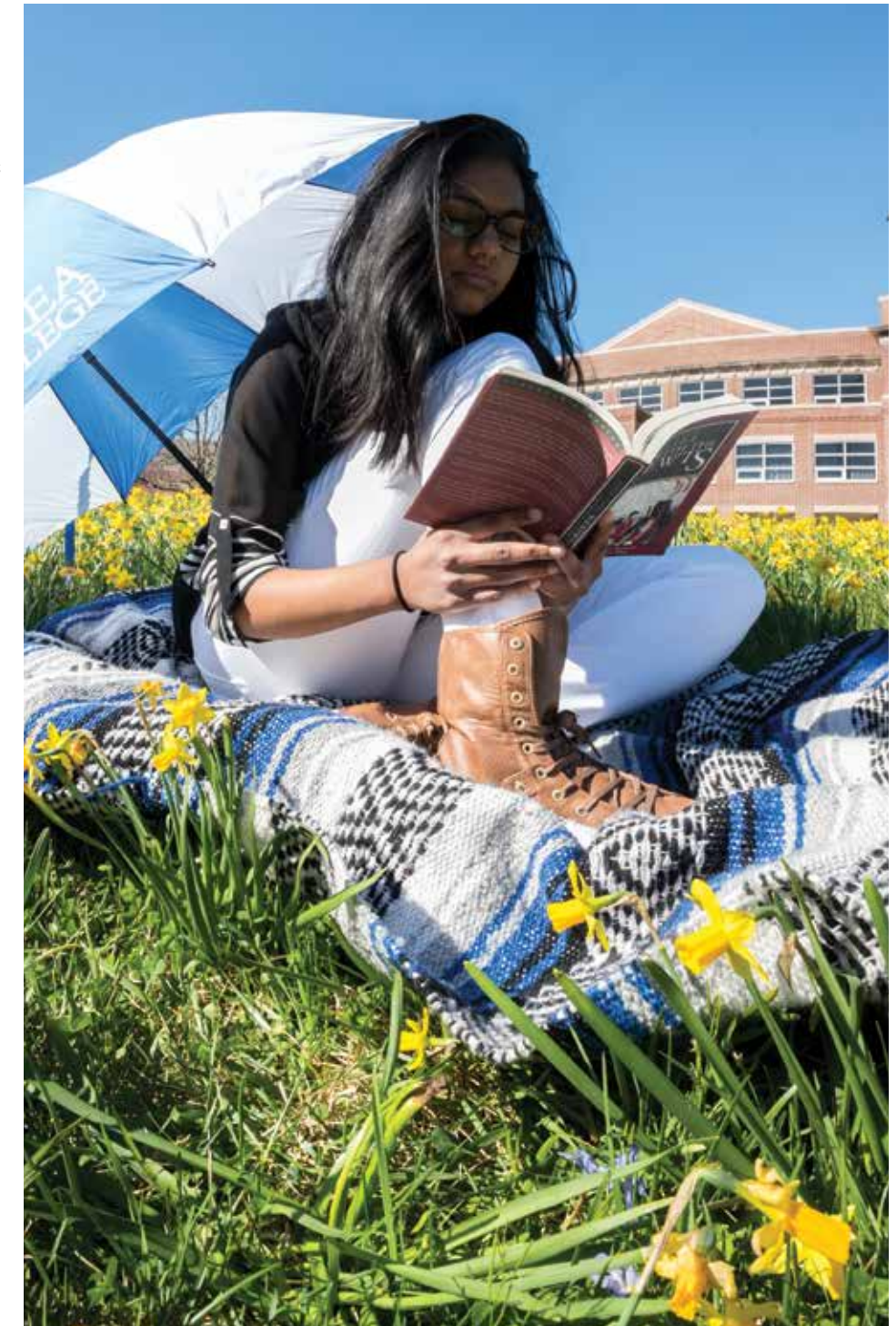
While Berea’s funding model is not the solution to the student-debt crisis, Berea can contribute substantially to the conversation on debt-free education. All Bereans know its value.

The Value of Free

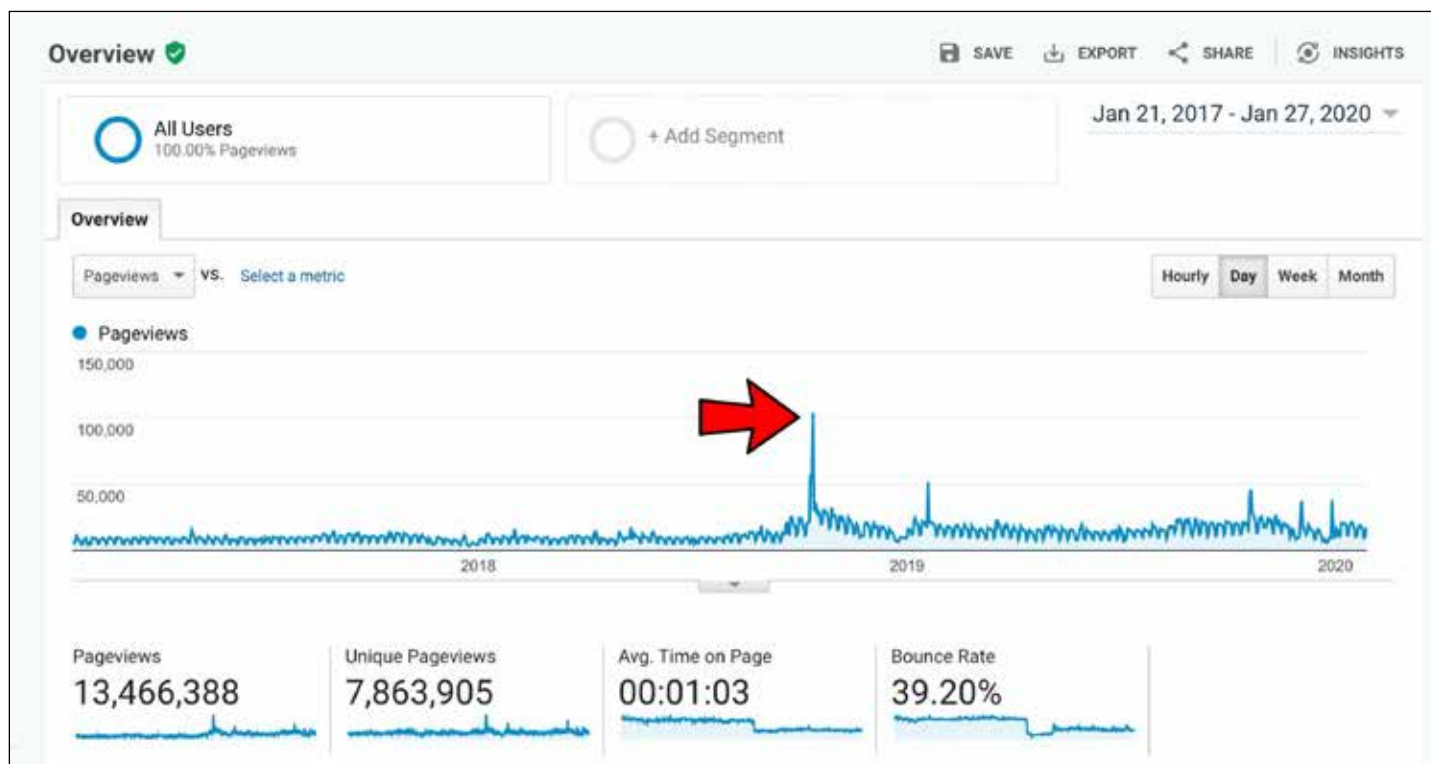
Statistics show that having a four-year degree sets a graduate on a trajectory to a better life, but many brilliant young minds cannot afford to go to college. Others leave college with a mountain of debt that burdens them for decades.

Debt limits options and narrows career paths. It doesn’t allow for the sort of exploration for which college was meant. The college experience should be about learning, making connections, growing, and above all, exploring one’s full range of interests. Ultimately, college should free students to develop their best possible life.

For all these reasons, it is important for American society to examine the debt challenges of higher education. This isn’t about Berea College, though. This is about what a debt-free education could mean for society as a whole. Those best equipped to tell that story are our alumni. And the best way for the College to contribute to the national conversation is to amplify their voices. Their stories bring Harris’ article to life; let’s hope the country is continuing to pay attention. [B](#)



Micah Yates '16



The spike on this chart represents the largest increase in web traffic the Berea College website has ever experienced. The influx of visitors was due to an article about Berea published in *The Atlantic*. It demonstrates the public’s interest in free tuition.



O'Neil Arnold '85



O'Neil Arnold '85

Making a Better _____:

The Value of a Liberal Arts Education

By Jason Lee Miller

There are two types of people in the world—those who believe there are only two types of people and those who don't. Those who don't likely have a liberal arts education.

Another, likely false, dichotomy: there are degrees that help you get a job, and there are degrees that don't. The latter, according to some off-campus cynics, is probably a liberal arts degree. On campus, though, you hear something much different. It's not so much about getting a job—it's about being the best possible version of yourself in whatever job you're doing.

At Berea, it's about making a better _____ (insert job here). It's about the nurse who connects with patients beyond “where does it hurt?” It's about computer programmers who ask important ethical questions about the technology they've created. And it's about the scientist who thinks about things “beyond the bench.”

Those other areas may include grand questions about the meaning of life or something more earthbound, like handling a disagreement. The liberal arts address these issues while teaching that, along with there being more than two kinds of people in the world, there are more than two kinds of people in each person.

Dr. Matthew Saderholm '92, dean of faculty and professor of chemistry,



Dr. Matthew Saderholm

suggests each person is a unique amalgamation of increasingly selective identities like “human,” “mother,” “Kentuckian,” or “scientist,” and the liberal arts (arts, human-

ities, social sciences, and natural sciences) bring meaning to those identities.

“The liberal arts collectively are needed,” he said. “While the social and natural sciences explain the physical universe and how our bodies function and interact, they do not provide essential aesthetic or spiritual meaning to our myriad identities. We need all the liberal arts to understand what it means to be human.”

Understanding what it means to be human, beyond its philosophical merits, is also practical. Critical thinking and communication skills make for better connections between people. “Making that human connection in all professions,” McKiernan González said, “is an important aspect of not just having a good life, but also being a good member

of a business, corporation, an institution, whatever direction you go in. Those kinds of connections become really important.”

The connections are important whether you are a doctor, a plumber, engineer or school teacher. For Dr. José Pimienta-Bey, associate professor of African and African American Studies, the liberal arts teaches us there is something more to our existence than figuring out how to make a living.

“It's also about seeing our interdependence and interconnectedness with each other,” he said. “The value is in recognizing that there is a diversity of human expression, and that diversity of

human expression should be acknowledged so that we can build greater cohesion within an already dangerously fragmented world.”

Pimienta-Bey reminisces about his own undergraduate education and, in particular, the professor who taught him the Sanskrit word *Namaste*. “That means I see the divinity in you, and I don't see you as *other*; I see you as an extension of myself. Things like that come out of liberal arts. Faculty members, such as she, encouraged me to see the best in diverse cultures and people.”

Though it sounds metaphysical, thoughts of human connectedness have practical applications for any profession. The computer scientist, for example,

must think beyond the algorithm one creates, according to Dr. Scott Heggen, associate professor of computer science.

“When we do computer science,” he asks, “are we thinking about people and the world as we're doing it? If I'm testing an algorithm to detect a face, it's detecting my skin tone. Am I considering other people's skin tone?”

It has become an important question as Facebook's facial recognition software showed a bias toward white males and a poor ability to recognize the faces of Black women. “The value of a liberal arts education,” said Heggen, “is that it makes you think about people outside yourself when you're doing the work you're doing. With every new development in computer science comes a sense of ethics.”

Also, according to Dr. Jason Strange, associate professor of general studies and chair of the peace and social justice studies department, the critical thinking enabled by a liberal arts education can serve as a kind of self-defense.

“We live in a society where if you're not educated, if you're not connected with the basic findings of scholars and scientists, it leaves you individually, and

While the social and natural sciences explain the physical universe and how our bodies function and interact, they do not provide essential aesthetic or spiritual meaning to our myriad identities. We need all the liberal arts to understand what it means to be human. — Dr. Matthew Saderholm '92

it leaves us collectively, unable to defend ourselves,” Strange said.

Education as self-defense is exemplified by a simple trip to the grocery store. If a person is unaware of manipulative marketing practices, one may interpret juice that says “no sugar added” as being a healthier choice, though there may be a lot of sugar in the juice naturally. Education helps a person defend against misinformation.

“A big chunk of the population is not able to defend themselves from false claims,” he said.

And finally, there is the idea of adaptability. The world changes quickly, and a liberal arts education enables a person to change with it.

“The value of a Berea education,” Saderholm explains, “is preparing you for what you don't expect. The world that your parents grew up in, the world that you see right now is not going to be the world that you're confronted with in

five, 10, 15 years.”

Dr. Mark Mahoney, associate professor of engineering technologies and applied design, concurs with Saderholm's assessment of the present and future rapid pace of change that necessitates a flexible mind.

“Technology as an industry changes constantly,” he said, “and if you're only trained in one or two certain facets of it, then you have to pick up the slack and learn it on your own. Our students, because of the breadth [of education], tend to be much more able to adjust.”

This aspect of the liberal arts has been said to be training for jobs that do not yet exist. The ability to adapt, communicate and think about ethical concerns may be why a liberal arts graduate actually earns more over time than graduates from other kinds of institutions that focus solely on vocation. According to a recent study from Georgetown University, the 40-year return on investment for a liberal arts degree is nearly \$200,000 more than degrees from all institutions as a whole.

Making a better _____, then, isn't so much about the job that fills the blank as it is about the person who does, the multiple types of people that person will have to work with, the problems that arise and the ability to solve them. The liberal arts, beyond mere vocational training, prepares students for the world as it is and as it will be, even should be. ■



Dr. Mark Mahoney



Dr. Eileen McKiernan González

understanding our political systems, the importance of culture, the arts, expanding the way we think. It's training beyond a profession. It's more about the person and expanding a mind that can then delve into other areas.”



©Neil Arnold '85

Living the Dream

By Jason Lee Miller

For many people, there is a distinct line between fantasy and reality. There is the dream of ourselves, often formed in childhood, and there is the self that “reality” dictates in adulthood. Hugo Award-winning fantasy writer Alix Harrow '09 knows that classic tension well, but has managed to live her childhood dream of being a novelist.

And she did it rather quickly, becoming the youngest woman in the history of the Hugo Awards to be nominated for best novel. Her debut work, “The Ten Thousand Doors of January,” cements her place in literary history while proving that, yes, one can live out a childhood dream—so long as the playing field is level. From Harrow’s point of view, it’s certainly not.

STUDENTS WILL MAJOR IN USELESS SUBJECTS

What is considered useful or useless is highly subjective, but employers continue to value graduates with a breadth of knowledge. Regardless of major, a college education builds “soft skills” employers are looking for, like critical and creative thinking, the ability to analyze and interpret data and the ability to communicate clearly. In addition, some majors that seem limited on the surface are useful for the kinds of skills, knowledge and attitudes they instill in students.

Education isn’t necessarily about just getting a job, but if gainful employment is the measure of a degree’s usefulness, then we can let the country’s employers speak to the value of a liberal arts education. According to a study by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the majority of U.S. employers consider skills developed in college to be very important. These skills include those mentioned above but also the ability to work in teams; digital literacy; ethical judgment and reasoning; and the ability to locate, evaluate and use information in decision making. Whatever path a student chooses in college, these are the valuable skills they develop while attending.

And while we shouldn’t hazard a guess as to which majors are thought to be “useless,” we can note that majors without obvious vocational parallels can be useful in other ways. According to the Law School Admissions Council, classics majors tended to score highest on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), and philosophy majors were most likely to be admitted to law school. Other top-performing majors included policy studies, international relations, art history and mathematics. ■

“The only people who are really permitted to fully explore their passions are people from privileged backgrounds,” she explained, remembering what it was like to be a teenager with ambitions of writing.

Harrow was not from a privileged background. She watched her parents struggle to pay off student loan debt and saw a similar future for herself, a future of dreams cut short by the simple act of owing someone.

At 14, she realized, “I need to think a little more practically and think about the kind of lifestyle that I want to have,” she said. She was reading *Poets and Writers* magazine, and she understood, “Very few writers support themselves with their writing. They have spouses or they come from money. They are supported in some external way.”

Everybody else, young Harrow surmised, had to find “a real job.” Harrow raced through her high school curriculum at home and collected a diploma at 16. She worked at Baskin-Robbins and took classes at the local community college while envisioning herself somewhere among other elite students in the Ivy League.

“I really liked college classes, so I applied to a couple of different schools,” she recalled. “That was actually a really sobering time, applying to different colleges and realizing that if I got these great, lovely acceptance letters, it wouldn’t necessarily mean that I could pursue the kind of life I was hoping to have. It seemed unattainable.”

Berea College, though, offered her something different. The prospect of not having to borrow money to pay tuition gave her the freedom to pursue her passions, both while in school and afterward.

“Once I got into Berea,” Harrow said, “it felt like, ‘Alright, great, I’m



Novelist Alix Harrow '09 is the youngest woman in the history of the Hugo Awards to be nominated for best novel. Graduating without debt enabled her to follow her dream of being a novelist.

signing up for art classes. I’m signing up for humanities classes. I going to study another language. I’m going to study abroad.’ I felt like I could have in some ways that ivy-covered campus that I had seen in movies.”

At Berea, Harrow gave tours of sustainable technology, worked as a research assistant to a professor and studied abroad in Mexico. She majored in history and graduated at the age of 19, without any debt to pay off.

“I was 19. I had a history degree, and I was in no hurry. I got a puppy. I lived in a van. I did migrant agricultural labor because I wanted to see the country. I fell in love with a guy who was raking blueberries, and he’s actually my husband. We did all these things that don’t sound very important, but they were formative to me.”

And she went to graduate school, landing a fellowship at the University of Vermont to pursue a master’s degree in history. Not having debt also meant that Harrow could work part-time as an adjunct instructor while writing her first novel.

“I don’t think I would be a novelist, or at least not a successful novelist, if I

didn’t have a history degree and that chance to explore,” she said. Her second novel, “The Once and Future Witches,” was released in 2020 during a pandemic that reinforced Harrow’s belief in the value of the arts.

“It’s very easy to say we need more nurses, not novelists,” she said. “But I do think our collective identity is the stories that we tell about ourselves. Without that collective story-making, we’re kind of impoverishing our culture. Many of us are surviving this pandemic by relying on things like books and movies and streaming services and music. Those things apparently do have a significant value to us on a human level.”

Harrow imagines that if she had gone to another school, she would have been in substantial debt that would have limited her professional options. She hopes her children and others can have the same degree of freedom she had to explore her passions. But options like these, says Harrow, are limited to the privileged and the graduates of a little tuition-free school in Kentucky. For everyone else, the line between fantasy and reality is a stubborn hurdle.

“If tuition was free, we would have a vastly more equitable and just society,” she said. “I think we would have a genuinely happier population of people who could pursue what they wanted for the reasons that they wanted.” ■

The Best Version of Yourself

By Jason Lee Miller

Now general counsel and administrative law judge for the Kentucky Personnel Board, Stafford Easterling's beginnings in Staunton, Va., were humble. Though he comes from a well-educated, well-established family in his hometown, systemic racism had held the family back financially.

“In my family,” he said, “we were educated for generations back. We are veterans. For generations back, we farmed, we owned things, we built things. We are one of the bedrocks of the African American community in my hometown, and we're still broke.”

THE DEGREE WILL BE WORTHLESS

Education is valuable on its own, but according to a study from Georgetown University, out of the 55 million job openings in the past 10 years, only 12 percent did not require a diploma of any kind. So a high school education is the minimum requirement for finding gainful employment and is therefore valuable. And the difference between a high school diploma and a college degree amounts to a million dollars in earning differentials, according to the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities.

Not everyone will choose to go to college, and that's okay. But because of significant growth in the healthcare and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, 65 percent of all jobs in the U.S. require postsecondary education or training beyond high school.

Nearly half of the jobs coming available are newly created jobs, meaning that skills gained in a post-secondary environment, like judgment, decision-making, communication, analysis and administration, will be the most in demand. What's more, the United States fell short by 5 million workers with post-secondary education in 2020, which makes college access an even more crucial issue.

In summary, for one-third of the population, there are jobs available that do not require education beyond high school. But for the remaining two-thirds, especially as 31 million jobs come available due to retirements, a college education is essential. And because of that, even if "everybody" had a college degree, post-secondary education—beyond its intrinsic value—will never be devalued. That degree is the best preparation for jobs that don't even exist today. ■

Easterling '02 says being poor is an obstacle in every circumstance, every situation, making the most basic situations complicated. "I dreamed of eating every day," he said. "I dreamed of having cable. I dreamed of not being broke."

Easterling was industrious, shoveling sidewalks and mowing grass until old enough to get a job in the service sector.

"There are a lot of people who were like me," he said, "who were taught how to be a frontline grunt. I was an excellent frontline grunt. I could flip a great burger. I could make some great fries. I could mop a mean floor. I was good at that sort of thing."

Having the job was important, and Easterling mused about how his circumstances were different from young people whose jobs were sort of a lifestyle accessory. The consequences of losing the job were different—for the more affluent youth, losing a job meant a lecture from parents and loss of gas money. For those of lesser means, the consequences were more cutting.

"As a poor kid," he said, "it might mean you don't have the ability to help your brothers and sisters eat."

College prospects present a similar dynamic. "If I come from a wealthy home," Easterling said, "if I come from a comfortable neighborhood, college is an accessory. College is an opportunity. It is one path out of many that are available to you. For many of us, if you're Berean, college is the way to overcome your background, your trauma, your poverty, your particular circumstance."

Easterling was bright, and he had college options because of that, but only one option that meant not taking on debt. In high school, he spent two summers at Berea in a program for gifted African Americans.

"After spending my two summers at Berea," he said, "it made it clear that I

didn't really want to go to anywhere else besides Berea, no matter where else I got in."

The future lawyer majored in business and took a campus job as a janitor. Both paths, he says, set him up for his future.

"Berea taught me the links between being a good janitor and being a good lawyer," he said.

Berea taught me the links between being a good janitor and being a good lawyer. The rules for being a lawyer are the same as the rules for being a janitor, which are show up on time, do your assignment.

— Stafford Easterling '02

"The rules for being a lawyer are the same as the rules for being a janitor, which are show up on time, do your assignment."

School was tough, he recalls.

"Berea was more difficult than law school," he said. "Berea might have been the most difficult thing that I have done in any professional setting other than serving as a Supreme Court law clerk. Berea College required me to step my game up in a way that nothing else has."

Stepping his game up meant learning to thrive in a liberal arts setting. Studying topics like colonialism and art history seemed to young Stafford to be a waste of time, but nearly 20 years later, he has changed his mind.

"I realized that the general studies

courses may have been the most valuable courses I took in college," he said.

"Liberal arts colleges teach you how to think. Berea, maybe more so than any place I've ever been, made me very good at that. I've been able to deal with any number of novel situations and circumstances that the liberal arts colleges teach you how to navigate."

Easterling bemoans the idea that there are Einsteins in the world who won't be able to afford college or be given the freedom to explore and discover their passions.

"It seems fairly clear to me that the world's best mandolin player is probably some poor Black kid in Philadelphia right now," he surmised. "They're never given the opportunity to play a mandolin in the first place."

The possibility of going to college for free opens up possibilities like that, as it did for Easterling.

"The value of free is the opportunity to explore the best possible version of yourself without having to worry about the day-to-day paying of your bills and figuring out how to feed yourself as you're trying to maximize your potential. Berea, tuition-free schools, allow people to chase their dreams without being encumbered for decades with that crushing student loan debt that limits your options and curtails your freedom." ■



Stafford Easterling '02 used his degree to become a lawyer and judge. The "value of free" for him was the ability to become the best version of himself.

Finding a College and a Home

By Kim Kobersmith

Chase '24 lived two very different lives in high school. During the day, he attended Lexington Christian Academy, a private school whose students mostly lived a privileged lifestyle. At home, his life was more encumbered. His single mother has a disability, and he had more responsibility and fewer material things than most of his classmates. Transportation was one issue; he had to drive his mom to and from work and himself to and from school.

Rather than seeing his home life as a burden, the sophomore says, "I enjoyed it, actually. I figured out how to use what I had."

As he looked to life after high school, Chase knew he needed a bachelor's degree to pursue a career in his passion: sustainability and environmental science. He looked at Ivy League schools and was accepted to other schools as well as Berea. But he knew Berea was the place for him after his first visit. And while at first blush his financial paperwork made his financial picture look rosier than it actually was, the school looked beyond it to his real need for assistance.

"Everything I saw of Berea caused me to fall in love. It is a hidden gem of the state," he says. "Berea listened to my story and gave me this wonderful opportunity I wouldn't have gotten at any other place."

The feeling that he had found the right fit only got stronger as he embarked on his college journey. Chase vividly remembers the feeling of being a new student who didn't know anyone else. The Orientation Team played a key role in easing his transition. The first

activity he attended was a movie night. As he worked up the nerve to talk to people, his confidence grew and interacting became easier.

The team also helps students get acclimated by providing personal tours, helping them find offices on campus to access resources like laptops and parking passes. Their activities made such an impact on Chase's first-year experience that he joined the Orientation Team to offer the same warm hospitality to incoming students.

"It is a loving, vibrant environment with people who genuinely care," he says about the group.

As the sophomore advances into his college experience, he keeps finding ways to connect and find his place. This year he was elected as a Student Government senator, representing his class and working toward changes in the dorm visitation policy. "Here, it is small enough to get to know everyone," he says. "We are a big family. I wouldn't trade it."

The campus vibe of curiosity, acceptance and self-discovery is a good fit. Chase has found an intellectual home at Berea. Attending convocation showed him that there were other Berea students who shared his interests and passion. Rather than requiring attendance at convocations during the pandemic, Berea has made them optional. While attendance can give a GPA

boost, Chase has attended more than the required number and says, "They are always packed. People legitimately want to learn. They are respectful and ask questions."

On a personal level as well, Chase has a deep appreciation for the openness

of the campus community. Since attending Berea, he has realized a new facet of himself as part of the LGBTQPIA+ community. He knows his ability to recognize and claim this identity

emerged because of the College atmosphere.

"People are willing to talk about it here, and I really appreciate that," he said. "Everyone has a deep level of understanding of self, more than any other community I have been part of."

And at Berea, Chase's family responsibilities and less-privileged background are not unusual. Other students, like Chase, have built confidence and resilience out of necessity as they have overcome their own challenges. There is a certain humility and level of responsibility among the students, a sense that people understand the magnitude of the gift they have been given, that this is their best opportunity.

"I am obligated to try my hardest to give back to my mom all that she has given me growing up," he said. "Students think about how someone is paying for them to be here. It is bigger than ourselves." ■

Everything I saw of Berea caused me to fall in love. It is a hidden gem of the state. Berea listened to my story and gave me this wonderful opportunity I wouldn't have gotten at any other place.
— Chase '24



Thanks to Berea's inclusive community and mission to educate bright students of limited means, Chase '24 is comfortably pursuing a career in sustainability and environmental science.

Arth Ngoo '24

Maintaining Berea's Value

By Chad Berry

Berea College has not charged tuition since 1892, when it became ever clearer that the students the College was admitting could not afford it.

So today, as the voices across the nation rally for making tuition more affordable and even free, such a movement offers Berea both opportunity and challenge. That it's taken more than

a century for many to see how important affordability and access is for higher education is a real testimony to Berea's long leadership. There is increasing concern that higher education cost increases are outpacing incomes. Even when President Barack Obama was in office, he admitted that over three decades, higher education as a sector increased costs by 260 percent, while family incomes during the same period increased 18 percent. And in the near future, 40 percent of college students will be below the poverty line.

One of Berea's challenges is how to maintain its edge in terms of affordability, access and especially quality so students of high academic promise and low economic means will continue to be attracted to the institution.

One of the most important components of a Berea College education is the many value-added aspects it offers students. Dedicated faculty and staff committed to student mentoring is essential. The Labor Program is also fundamental, and students' perception

of it moves from obligation to opportunity as they work their way through the Berea College experience. It provides students significant ways to align academics and work, and offers myriad workplace experiences for the world beyond.

Our admissions team presents the many Berea value-adds as the No-Tuition Promise plus, because it is necessary to challenge preconceptions that what is free or affordable is necessarily of dubious quality. (You can Google the "Chivas Regal Effect" to get a sense of how these perceptions work.) We need to convince students and parents that at Berea they can have both affordability and high quality, the real differentiator that separates Berea from other institutions. So, the messaging to prospective students and their families often involves

"not-just" examples:

- It's not just an internship—it's a paid internship aligned closely with one's interests and goals.
- It's not just a Labor Program—it's a career development program that deepens soft skills and broadens hard skills.
- It's not just a study abroad trip—it's a significantly funded trip to expand global perspective.
- It's not just career development—it's intentional mentoring, planning and unparalleled funding to launch a post-graduate experience.
- It's not just a convocation—it's a free opportunity to hear from world-renowned speakers and performers to deepen understanding on major topics.

There is also a nuanced but signifi-

cant difference between the way Berea uses Pell monies and the way many other institutions apply these federal dollars. Many schools will use them as first-resort funds, meaning Pell monies are applied to tuition. But doing so leaves little to no money for housing and meals, leaving students responsible for these costs. Berea uses Pell as last-resort funding, because alumni and friends have contributed to the endowment and annually to the Berea Fund. Tuition is covered, which leaves Pell grant funds to be used for housing and meals. It's a key reason Berea students graduate with the lowest debt in the country when they accumulate debt at all; nearly half graduate debt-free.

There are several other key ingredients that make up the "secret sauce" that enables Berea College students to flourish.

One of these is the deep support that comes with a Berea experience, support that goes well beyond free tuition. Access without support is not the same thing as opportunity. For the population we serve, in fact, access without support is just inhumane. We can provide the support that makes the difference because we know the students whom this institution serves. Examples:

- A brand-new laptop at move-in day to transcend the digital divide.
- A free dental clinic so students can have access to high-quality dental care, many for the first time in their lives.
- A number of campus centers (e.g., the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, the Black Cultural Center, the Center for Excellence in Learning through Service, the Espacio Cultural Latinx, the Carter G. Woodson Center, the Francis and Louise Hutchins Center for International Education, the new bell hooks center, etc.) that serve as supportive "living rooms," where students find comfort and support that works for their identity.
- A \$500 stipend given to each graduate at graduation to pay a security deposit for an apartment or for other expens-




es, whether going to graduate school or starting a career.

Beyond providing supportive centers, another key ingredient of the Berea College experience is diversity writ large—race, place, ethnicity, religion, gender, perspective—following founder John G. Fee's radical sense of inclusion and Berea's motto that "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth." Learning across difference is one of the most important and proven value-added characteristics of a high-quality educational experience. Berea, from 1855, has this down cold, much more so than many other institutions where the importance of diversity and inclusion were realized only in the last few decades.

The final key ingredient may be surprising, but it is essential to student success and satisfaction. This involves socioeconomic homogeneity. At Berea, all students are in the same boat, and that leveling means students are not constantly reminded about what they don't have compared to their peers. The more prevalent situation, particularly at well-resourced schools, is that a low-income student might arrive on campus via Greyhound bus while one's roommate might arrive in a brand-new luxury

SUV or even a family's private jet. What a blessing that Berea is free of that kind of inequality!

President Lyle Roelofs, reflecting on the value of free, particularly in comparison to other fine institutions where he has served, notes that "part of the deep pleasure of being part of the community is that Berea students are free to be normal college students. They work hard, they struggle with hard classes and cope with labor assignments in addition. They protest injustice. They complain when the College falls short of its aspirations. They struggle to come to terms with a complicated present. They worry about their future. They find friends who will be with them for life. They form bonds with amazing professors and labor supervisors who become models for them. Some even become friends with and run or walk with the president and the first lady." Most importantly, he says, "At Berea this genuine college experience is not reserved only for the affluent; it is possible only because Berea has been designed for them and for them alone."

And this, of course, is the most essential *Value of Free*. 



Tyler Rocquemore '22

Dr. Chad Berry

Anna Skaggs '17

Sarah-Anne Soares '18



Underdog

By Jason Lee Miller

Scott Darst '02 loves an underdog story. He was once one, himself. Now, as a 4-H youth development agent and professor, he helps other underdogs realize their potential.

Darst comes from a small, West Virginia town, predominantly white, evangelical and blue collar. As a kid, he came to understand that the local culture valued hard work, but not so much education. His father was a coal miner. Others worked on the Ohio River, still others in factories. It was expected Darst would follow a similar path.

That path seemed certain when his parents divorced, leaving his mother to take care of three boys on her own and young Darst to grow up without his father around.

"I didn't have a biological father to say, 'Hey, this is what you need to be doing,'" he said. "'This is how you become a man, a father.' So I always had that chip on my shoulder."

Fortunately, Darst had teachers and guidance counselors who recognized his potential and encouraged him to apply to college. His friends were headed to nearby Marshall University, but Darst didn't see college as a possibility.

"Paying for college wasn't an option for me," he remembered. "My friends were talking about it, and the amount of debt they were talking about was also not an option."

Though Darst felt college was not in his future, a guidance counselor helped him apply to Berea College. He was "stunned" when he received his acceptance letter.

"I was like, 'There's got to be a catch. This is too good to be true.'"

The only thing that might hold him back now was cultural—he had heard grumblings from the local workforce that college was for people who didn't want to work or were above manual labor.

"So there was that stigma that I had to just ignore and just go," he said. "And I'm glad I did. It really set me up for the future. It really gave me help to succeed."

Through the labor program and rigorous academics, Berea provided Darst with a structure the young man needed, much like the 4-H program had done when he was a kid. His family circumstances drew him to major in child and family studies.

"When I went to college," he said, "I knew I wanted to work with kids in some form or fashion. Through those classes, learning about childhood theories, I learned, oh, well, this is why I am the way I am. So how do I overcome that?"

Darst decided he would become that male role model for other kids, pushing them to develop the way Berea College pushed him.

"I always was a kid that had potential but was never forced to use it," he said. "Berea College forces you to use it. It forces you to open your mind, to work hard, to be responsible."

After graduating, Darst worked as a pre-school teacher for a few years. Then he took a job as a case manager for therapeutic foster children.

"These were kids the state couldn't place that have seen the worst of the worst," Darst recalled. "And I had a passion for that. What these kids were facing, it was traumatizing. It brought back some memories for me."

Eventually, Darst accepted a job with the University of Kentucky as a 4-H youth development agent at the

Madison County Cooperative Extension Service. Not only could he continue in his positive work with children, he was also able to complete his master's degree, which allowed him to take a part-time faculty position at Eastern Kentucky University.

"Man, I love it. You're building kids up in a way that I've always wanted to do it," he said. "You don't know every situation that every kid is in, but eventually you start catching on. Like, this kid has never had an adult say 'good job.' Or 'hey, you know, you're really good this and that.' I guess I could have been making more money somewhere else, but it's quality of life. Do I want to make money or make a difference? That's one thing Berea College has taught me, to make a difference. That's what they instill in all their students." ■



In 2014, Scott Darst '02 participated in Berea's Great Conversations, talking to students about his career and education path. Since graduating from Berea, Darst has earned a master's degree in Parks and Recreation from Eastern Kentucky University and is thriving in a career that impacts youth in his community.

MYTH #3: IF COLLEGE IS FREE THEN

STUDENTS WILL NOT TRY AS HARD

Berea College is tuition free and enrolls nearly 100 percent Pell-grant recipients with a high graduation rate. Here, there doesn't seem to be a correlation between free college and apathy. Berea students are more invested in completing their degree because they recognize the great opportunity they have been given.

So many students nationwide face choices between going to work and going to class, because their job(s) is helping pay for their college costs. A recent study from Student Loan Hero, a debt management company, found that up to 65 percent of college students work while they are enrolled full-time, and a significant portion of them work more than 20 hours a week. The survey also found that students who have loans are much more likely to be engaged in part-time jobs than others.

Data from the National College Health Assessment shows that 75 percent of U.S. students experienced moderate to high financial stress in the past 12 months. Another study, from the Hope Center, showed that almost half of students experienced food insecurity in the past 30 days, and 17 percent experienced homelessness in the past year. With the cost of attending college increasing by 31 percent just over the past decade, it's not surprising that college students face economic stressors while trying to obtain a degree, or that these stressors cause an increase in attrition.

At Berea College, we've discovered that mitigating financial stress (and the attendant mental and emotional stress) in a student's life is a recipe for success. By not charging tuition and offering campus jobs with limited hours (10-12 per week) that don't interfere with classes, Berea allows students to focus on their studies rather than on just surviving. What we haven't found is an apathetic student body. On the contrary, our students succeed in a rigorous and demanding curriculum, and in the end, they are proud of what they have accomplished. ■

Prolific

By Jason Lee Miller

Akilah Hughes '10 came to Berea with dreams of becoming the next Oprah Winfrey. With appearances on HBO, MTV and Comedy Central, the prolific writer, comedian, YouTuber, podcaster and actress is well on her way to making that dream a reality.

Hughes grew up in northern Kentucky, near Cincinnati, in what she calls a good mixture of urban and suburban life. Money was tight in her single-parent household with four children, which limited the number of interests the kids could pursue.

For Akilah, one of those interests was theater, but special summer theater camps were cost-prohibitive. Nevertheless, she and her siblings wrote their own stories and performed for each other, laying the foundation for Hughes' future career.

"When it was about time for me to start thinking about going to college," she said, "my biggest fear was not being able to pay for it.

That was always weighing on me, this idea that I would be in debt, the family would have to struggle. And I didn't know or think that it would be possible to do it any other way. It was going to be a ton of debt or no school at all. And, you know, that's really hard for a teenager to sort of parse through."

Her Advanced Placement English teacher happened to be a Berea alumnus and encouraged Hughes to apply.

"One of the best days of my life was getting a letter from Berea College that said you are going to be in the class of 2009-2010. It was very exciting. It was

really like getting the golden ticket in Willy Wonka."

Hughes majored in broadcasting and set up her own YouTube channel, recruiting fellow students the way she had recruited her siblings in years past to be in her online sketches. She was also able to sign up for those theater classes she missed out on as a kid.

"My vision for what I was going to do after Berea was always something very creative," she remembered. "I wanted to do something that matched up my love of the Internet and the future of social media. I found this really great niche of being involved in political endeavors and writing news stories but also maintaining a very specific point of view and being able to perform."

While at Berea, Hughes also was able to do an internship with the Disney College Program at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Berea College assisted

The value of free for me was freedom. I was able to create a career path that objectively did not exist when I started college. If I was still paying off student loans, there's no way I could have had the space to move to New York City and live there for eight years. — Akilah Hughes '10

her in this adventure with funding to address the living expenses associated with working in a theme park. When she graduated into a recession, Hughes was able to go back to Disney to work for a year while she figured out her

next steps.

"You know, the jobs we were promised were not there, but I had the benefit of not being saddled with all this debt. I got to take some risks and take the time to find jobs that would have been more aligned with what I wanted to do. That was something I wish everyone could experience."

While friends with student loan

debt were enrolling in graduate school to defer their payments, Hughes saved her money to move to New York City, where she landed a scholarship for improvisation classes with the Upright Citizens Brigade, from which some alumni had gone on to work at "Saturday Night Live." For Hughes, who continued to make YouTube videos in her spare time, it led to working for MTV.

"The value of free for me was freedom," she said. "I was able to create a career path that objectively did not exist when I started college. If I was still paying off student loans, there's no way I could have had the space to move to New York City and live there for eight years. And then to relocate to Los Angeles and stay afloat. It just can't be overstated how important it was for me to not have that huge monkey on my back. I can't thank Berea enough."

In L.A., Hughes worked with the Sundance Institute and the MacArthur Foundation, and from there "it just snowballed." In addition to a YouTube channel, "Akilah Obviously," that draws about 150,000 subscribers, she has written a book, cohosted the award-winning Crooked Media podcast "What a Day," reaching millions of listeners, and even did voice work on Fox's animated series "Bob's Burgers." Her next adventure is writing and starring in a sketch-comedy show executive produced by "Key and Peele" star Keegan-Michael Key.

"Without Berea College," she said, "I don't think that I would have been able to go all over the world doing comedy, talking about my political beliefs, helping empower people who want to be involved locally. I think I would have been really, really stifled in all of my ambition." ■



Nick Hasmusen



Justin Skeens

A Life of Great Promise

By Cora Allison '22

It is not uncommon for incoming students at Berea, or any institution of higher education, to experiment with various academic topics before choosing their major. Even so, there is a small fraction of students who handpick Berea College for the pursuit of that one career they have sought after for most of their lives. Rachel Saunders '08 M.D. is one of those few students.

With a veterinarian for a grandfather and parents who emphasized giving back to their community, Saunders naturally inherited an affinity for caretaking. "As a kid, I volunteered a lot with my family," Saunders said. "Medicine felt like a way for me to blend my love for science and my passion for giving back."

Although Saunders grew up in Birmingham, Ala., she was well informed about Berea College, as both of her parents were Berea graduates. When choosing between two schools during her senior year of high school, her family's income was cut in half.

"It ended up working out because previously, I wasn't financially eligible for Berea," Saunders said. "Since I knew I wanted to go into medicine, debt-free tuition was a huge motivating factor for me."

Upon arrival at Berea, she felt immediately supported in her medical trajectory and the pursuit of her career. From the moment she stepped on campus, the support that would help her reach her goals was apparent.

"One of Berea's taglines is that they 'invest in lives of great promise,' and I feel like they really live up to that," Saunders said. "I was able to do a lot of things that set me up for my current

career."

As a first-year student at the College, Saunders worked in health services at the local healthcare facility, White House Clinic. Her responsibilities included filing charts and scheduling appointments, which allowed her to see the operations of a medical office. This experience kick-started her involvement with extracurricular activities that would bolster her application for medical school.

With a little help from then-Berea College Trustee Dr. Chella David '61 working at the Mayo Clinic and Berea Professor Dr. Dawn Anderson, during her sophomore year, Saunders landed a research internship at Vanderbilt University. "It provided me with insight of the inner-workings of a laboratory, hands-on experience with a surgeon and, overall, it gave me a lot of exposure to the medical environment."

In preparation for the summer during her junior year, Saunders applied for and received two more prestigious internships: one with Yale and the other with Mayo Clinic. The latter seemed most appealing, as she would receive the support and mentorship of another then-Berea College trustee, Dr. Hal Moses '58.

"That summer, I learned so much about research presentation," Saunders said. "A requirement of the internship was to conduct bench research, analyze it and present it to a forum. This was great practice."

In addition to technical skills and relevant career experience, Saunders was given the chance to network with talented professionals and field experts from all over the country. "I 100 percent

credit Berea with my success in medical school and setting me up for my career trajectory," she said.

After eight years of medical school and residency at the University of Kentucky, Saunders secured a full-time faculty position there and is now an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN). She serves as chair of admissions for the College of Medicine and runs the third-year clerkship for OB/GYN specialties.

"I chose obstetrics and gynecology because I believe the health of our population is strongly tied to women," Saunders explained. "Practicing obstetrics and also women's health gives me the opportunity to guide our next generation in a healthy direction."

Saunders expressed gratitude for having the ability to apply to any medical school regardless of cost. "Because I didn't go into debt during undergraduate school, I had more freedom to choose what was the best fit for me."

Although her pursuit of a medical career never wavered, Saunders is confident she wouldn't have had the same opportunities without Berea's help. "If it wasn't for someone really trusting and believing in me, I wouldn't be where I am today," she said. "They took a chance on me, and I can never pay it back; but I can pay it forward. It motivates me to give to the next generation." ■

Unlimited Access

By Daniela Pirela Manares '20

Growing up, all Cody Myers '17 knew was a farm. Living in Lenoir City, Tenn., where an internet connection was seen as a luxury, Myers imagined his future would include taking over the family farm. That is until the recession hit, and his family was forced to sell its land. Little did he know, an even brighter future was ahead.

Myers began working in construction when he was just 14 years old. What started as a way to help pay the bills at home led to an opportunity that would change his life. While installing floors at a friend's house, the owner told Myers about Berea College, the place that would grant him a tuition-free education he never would have thought possible.

"I never thought of college as an option, just because it's so unaffordable. So, I applied and eventually got in and thought, 'Sweet,' and everything changed from there."

At Berea, Myers remembers facing a new set of challenges, including learning how to type on a computer and exploring his career-path options.

"My parents still don't have internet out of their house to this day because no one runs internet lines out there, so I received my first computer through the Edge Program at Berea," he said. "And I always joke with other people on my team because I will be typing really fast and have to look off screen to look at my keyboard and type the number seven."

Myers decided to take free online classes to learn how to type, which in turn allowed him to fall in love with computer science. As a first-year student, he was placed in a robotics class, where he earned a 98 as his final grade and an offer to become a Computer Science teaching assistant.

"I would say I felt intimidated when I first started computer science because I felt like I was so far behind everyone else," he recalls. "My freshman year I had to ask my professors to simplify all this information that people who grew up with computers knew."

His passion for computer science also led him to become one of the first student programmers on the student software development team. The labor program in computer science is led by associate professor Dr. Scott Heggen and is intended to immerse students in the field by identifying software needs for the College and creating technical solutions for those needs.

For Myers, his role as a student programmer was fundamental in his college education, and it is something he credits as the reason he landed a job at Red Hat, an IBM subsidiary software company based in Raleigh, N.C.

Berea's software development team "gave me basically some real-world experience about how to develop websites, what it's like to run a website in production, what it's like to have customers that are using your website," Myers said.

In fact, the syllabus repository system the College is currently using was created by Myers while he worked

for BereaCorps, a job program for recent graduates. To this day, he is thankful to Berea College for all the life-changing opportunities and people he met.

"I think for a lot of kids, especially kids who come from lower economic standing, the idea of going into debt is just so terrifying, because a lot of us probably watched our parents go through debt and not be able to get out of it," Myers said.

"I think people have a misconception that free equals cheap. And this—our education—is not cheap, by any means. We're just lucky to have it [covered] because of Berea's endowment" and generous donors.

Myers also credits his education at Berea for providing a community among the student programmers as well as professional opportunities he would not

have been able to afford otherwise. These include traveling abroad to Sweden to present a paper on teaching software to students through the software development team and other internship opportunities.

Looking back on his experience, Myers thinks of Berea College with real appreciation. He recalls his greatest success was graduating debt-free, which now allows him to be a homeowner

before turning 30 and to move further into his career path to become a senior software engineer.

Now living in Durham, N.C., Myers' goal is to find more significant ways to give back to his alma mater,

starting with sharing Red Hat internship opportunities for Berea College students.

"Berea changed my life, and I think it's going to change a lot of people's lives," he said. "You go through an experience that people talk about being life changing in the moment, but you never really realize how life changing it is. And I don't think any of the things I own or my career would have been possible without going to Berea first.

"I think once you are able to achieve a degree at Berea, you get this feeling that you can just do anything," Myers continued. "Like, you've accomplished this really hard thing, and you were able to succeed. And then that gives you the confidence to know that you can do that in the real world." ■

I think people have a misconception that free equals cheap. And this—our education—is not cheap, by any means. We're just lucky to have it covered because of Berea's endowment and generous donors.
— Cody Meyers '17

BEREA ALUMNA EXPLORES DEBT DISPARITY ALONG RACE LINES
Berea alumnus Jonathan C.W. Davis '12, a senior research associate at The Education Trust, co-authored an article about the disparity in student debt between Black and white borrowers. Read the article at <https://cnn.it/3CbDNF6>



THE POWER OF PURPOSE

Each piece in the Purpose Collection has been touched by many hands. One person "throws" a mug, while another attaches the handle, followed by another who adds the leaves and yet another who glazes it. Each cup takes up to three days to finish. The pitchers, says Jose '22, take a bit longer.

Jose is a painting major from Georgia. He can throw any piece in this collection. Each finished product is a matter of pride and satisfaction for him, but he especially likes the meditative experience of handling the clay.

"There's something wonderful about being allowed to get your hands dirty in that way," he said. "It reminds me of being young and just getting into mud and not caring. I also like that it's a very meditative kind of activity. Once you get the hang of it, you can turn your brain off and just let your body do the work. You can sit there and contemplate everything."

The meditative state helps Jose come up with ideas for painting as he prepares for his senior art show. It's apropos since the Purpose Collection is inspired by Berea's Seventh Great Commitment to mindfulness. Aesthetically based on red and black barns, silos and granaries that have become weathered over time and reclaimed by nature, the collection offers a poetic rumination on decay and growth.

Jose comes from "a working-class family," and there wasn't much emphasis on the arts growing up.

"There wasn't really any room for my family to explore anything artistic," Jose said. "You know, it's work, survive. So I'm really thankful that I'm getting the chance to explore something like this."

It took some time for Jose to get the hang of throwing mugs and pitchers. He describes ceramics as having "a steep learning curve."

"My first semester," he said, "I made almost no good pots. Everything was either really small, or I just couldn't get the clay up." But over time, putting in extra hours over winter and summer breaks, Jose got to be the craftsman that he is.

In ten years, Jose sees himself in his own studio, painting and doing ceramics.

"I've come to really love ceramics, and I don't see myself stopping. Because of Berea, I've been able to explore and find these wonderful passions: painting, ceramics, print making, and art history."



Photo by Lacy Fields '24

EVERY PIECE TELLS A STORY

When you purchase a handmade Berea College Student Craft product, you are buying much more than a cup or pitcher. Each piece is imprinted with the identity and heart of the student who made it.

To purchase a piece from the Purpose Collection, or the entire set, visit <https://www.bcshoppe.com/purpose-collection.html>

BEREA COLLEGE
STUDENT CRAFT - 859-985-3220 - bcstudentcraft.com

Fighting for Education Equity

By Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03

In 2009, Jamie Nunnery Oleka '13 arrived in Berea full of promise, excitement and a little shock that she was beginning her college journey. Her family had driven the 97 miles that separated Berea from her hometown of West Liberty, Ky. With a population of a little more than 3,400 at the time, this quaint town with its close-knit community in the heart of eastern Kentucky had been Oleka's security her whole life. And as a first-generation college student, she was stepping into unknown territory to pursue a much-desired education.



Oleka's mother immigrated to the United States from the Philippines, and her father grew up in eastern Kentucky. "Both of them really stressed the importance of education," she said. "In fact, to them, they made it seem like education was the closest thing to magic as far as ending generational poverty and really having more opportunities in life."

"So I knew growing up that I wanted to go to college and that education was a key lever in giving me opportunities in life, and Berea was able to do that for me," Oleka continued.

She originally wanted to go to the University of Kentucky. But when she joyfully told her parents UK had accepted her, she was told, "We're not going to be able to do that because we can't afford it," Oleka recalls. So, when a family member told her about Berea College and its tuition-free promise, she set up a visit. She fell in love with the campus, and the small community was reminiscent of home.

"When I went into it, I knew I wanted to go to Berea because it was free," Oleka said.

"All of the other factors of it being a quality education and a small, tight-knit community—all of those pieces strengthened my decision to go to Berea College."

She studied hard and was top of her class in high school, yet when Oleka transitioned to Berea, she found an academic rigor and level of expectation for which she was not prepared.

"A lot of the reason I struggled in college was because of educational inequity that I faced in West Liberty," she said. "Growing up in a low-income background, I didn't necessarily receive a quality education. Though I graduated top of my class, when I got into my first basic Biology 101 course, I realized I was really, really behind."

Oleka found she had not been adequately prepared with study skills or

how to seek out help from professors and teaching assistants. At one point, she nearly dropped out altogether. But because of the support she received from College faculty and, especially, her labor supervisors, Oleka overcame these challenges and successfully completed an independent major in health sciences in 2013.

"When I think about students who may come from rural communities or even urban communities and they aren't able to access quality education, that is a rock and a hurdle for them being able to end generational poverty for their own families," she said. "Folks not being able to get a quality education is really like closing the door on them being able to reach their fullest potential."

These realizations led Oleka to rethink the direction in which she took her career. She had been accepted to the Peace Corps, but a meeting with a Teach for America recruiter steered her toward teaching, emphasizing that she would be a really great teacher—because of her story, she would relate to children across the country from similar circumstances.

Oleka was involved with Teach for America for approximately six years, serving in Mississippi, South Carolina,

and various places in Appalachia. She then taught middle and high school before serving for a year as principal at Nativity Academy at St. Boniface in Louisville, Ky. She also went on to earn a master of education in instructional accommodations from Marion University; a master of arts in teaching and secondary education from the University of Louisville; and an education specialist degree in educational administration, educational leadership and administration from Louisville.

Today, Oleka is back with Teach for America, serving as managing director of

The Collective, focused on community and coalition building.

Oleka says Berea's entire admissions process is focused on selecting not just qualifying low-income students but on students who show promise in every area of their lives. "They actually interview you so they can get to know your story and if you are a good fit for Berea College," she said. "Meaning, if we give you the opportunity, if we give you this free-tuition opportunity, what will you make of it? Can we see something within you, your story and character that shows that this is something you will take advantage of and that could set you up on a different life path?"

Oleka also credits Berea's work program for much of her life and career success. While at Berea, she worked in Academic Services, served as a resident assistant and volunteered with the Adopt-a-Grandparent program, which led to her involvement in the Bonner Scholars program. As a Bonner Scholar, she spent a summer of service abroad at Space Camp Turkey in a small town near Ephesus. And her last semester, she added a position with Berea's Admissions office.

"I realized when I was competing against other folks trying to get a job immediately after college, I had a full résumé with a lot of experience," Oleka said. "I had managers who could speak on my behalf. All of my labor supervisors at Berea took the time to get to know me as an individual, and, looking back on it, they invested in me more than just being an employee."

"Without Berea," she added, "I would not have been able to pursue a career focused on my passions." ■

Folks not being able to get a quality education is really like closing the door on them being able to reach their fullest potential.
— Jamie Nunnery Oleka '13

12 Gifts 12 Months

You can invest in lives of great promise all year long.

Increase the impact of your support and join the Berea Partners Club today by giving monthly.

\$250

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

\$125

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

\$70

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

\$35

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

\$10

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

Philanthropist

“Berea has given more than I could hope for. They allowed me to pursue my dreams, and I want to help others do the same.”

—Christoff '23



Photo by Tyler Rocquemore '22

Christoff's introduction to philanthropy came in his first few weeks as a first-year student when he and a couple of friends stumbled upon an information booth about the **Berea Patrons** program. Since then, he has contributed a small portion of earnings from his labor position to the program every month.

Born in the United States and raised in The Gambia, Christoff '23 believes in the power of the collective. He wants to stay true to the cultural values he learned from the country he was raised in and believes in giving back to the communities that help him grow at Berea College.

“When hundreds of students contribute over time, it really adds up,” he said. “I am happy thinking about how these small sums of money that I give could pay for the education

of someone else who, like me, would have struggled to pay for college if it were not for Berea.”

Christoff believes the sense of collective that is deeply embedded in the longstanding history of Berea is what has helped it withstand challenges and stay true to its commitments for all these years. **The “Berea Bubble” is sustained through a high degree of interdependence; an awareness that all the stakeholders, from students to faculty, the professional staff and the alumni, all enrich the community collectively.**

“Making these contributions is about building a habit of giving, a small element of culture that could culminate in you becoming a humble and empathetic person when you have reached a place of abundance,” Christoff said. We should all share that truly noble goal in life.

Four New Members Elected to Board of Trustees

Donna J. Dean, Ph.D. '69, of Hedgesville, W.Va.; Charles Crowe '70, of Johnson City, Tenn.; Megan Torres '09, of Alexandria, Va.; and Cassie Helen Chambers Armstrong, of Louisville, Ky., were elected to serve on the Berea College Board of Trustees. Each will serve six-year terms.

Dean's career has included various positions in scientific research and administration. Most recently, she was an executive consultant to the Association for Women in Science in Washington, D.C. She served in various capacities for the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Bethesda, Md., and she also has held laboratory and faculty-based positions as a research chemist for the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolic Diseases and Diabetes NIH and as a visiting research fellow in the department of biology at Princeton University.

Since 2012, Dean has served as a career consultant for the American Chemical Society in Washington, D.C., and as an emeritus member of the board of advisors for Tulane University's School of Science and Engineering. After receiving her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Duke University, she completed post-doctorate studies in cell and molecular biology at Princeton University.

Crowe was the CEO of LeGacy Resource Corporation until it was dissolved in 2015. He previously spent more than 30 years with the U.S. Department of Energy and its predecessor agencies (Energy Research and Development Administration and the Atomic Energy Commission), from which he retired as the director of the Procurement and Contracts Division in 2006. Earlier in his career, he worked in the auto industry, higher education and the construction industry.

Crowe earned a master's degree from Eastern Kentucky University and received an honorary doctorate degree from Berea College. A very active member of his community, Crowe has received many awards and recognitions for community service. He also was twice recognized by Outstanding Young Men of America. As a community leader, Crowe has led and served on the boards of numerous charitable organizations. He currently serves as president of the Men of Tomorrow Foundation, which he co-founded 31 years ago. The Foundation operates a mentoring program focused on the core values of developing a good self-image, providing positive role models, stressing

academic achievement, encouraging cultural development and stressing career development. The program provides community youth a jump start to a successful future career.

Torres completed her master's degree in business administration at the University of Mary Washington while working at National Resource Conservation Service within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. While there, she focused on a variety of projects, including contracting system administration, policy, training/certification management and performing market research for micro purchases. She now works as an auditor with the Army Audit Agency at Ft. Belvoir, Va. Torres will serve as an alumni trustee.

Armstrong grew up in Berea and is a

graduate of the Yale School of Public Health, the London School of Economics and Harvard Law School. She is an assistant professor of law at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law and a member of the Louisville Metro Council. Armstrong is the daughter of two Berea alums, Orlando Chambers '86 and Wilma Chambers '91, a former director of the College's Child Development Lab.

Her book, “Hill Women,” was published in 2020 and focuses on the role of education in creating transformative change in Appalachia. Previously, Armstrong was a Skadden Fellow at a Kentucky nonprofit, where she formulated and implemented impact litigation strategies. She also spent time working in private practice at Kaplan, Johnson, Abate and Bird.



Donna Dean '69



Charles Crowe '70



Megan Torres '09



Cassie Armstrong

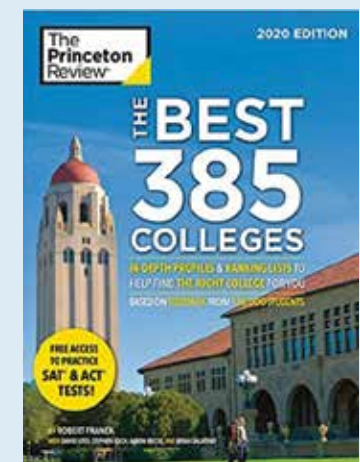
Berea Named One of the Best 387 Colleges by The Princeton Review

Berea College has again been named one of the nation's “best institutions for undergraduates to earn their college degree” in *The Princeton Review's* book, *The Best 387 Colleges: 2022 Edition*.

Only about 14 percent of America's 2,800 four-year colleges are profiled in the guide book. *The Princeton Review* includes colleges in the book based on data it collects annually from administrators at hundreds of colleges about their institutions' academic offerings. The Princeton Review also considers data from surveys of college students who rate and report on various aspects of their campus and community experiences for this project.

Berea College was recognized for appearing in the following lists:

- Best Colleges in the Southeast
- Best Green Colleges
- Best Value Colleges
- Tuition-free Schools



Hill-Zuganelli receives Innovation in Teaching Award

Dr. Dee Hill-Zuganelli, assistant professor in the Child and Family Studies department, was among three instructors to receive Cognella Innovation in Teaching Awards for Family Science at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference in November 2021. The award recognizes outstanding family-science instructors who develop and apply innovative teaching practices within their courses.

Dr. Hill-Zuganelli leveraged remote teaching technology and online communication platforms to help students evaluate safety and sense of belonging among LGBTQPIA+ minoritized students. As part of a seminar course called "Sexuality in Everyday Life," students were challenged with identifying and sharing "safe zones" on campus and shared their evaluations as part of a broad group discussion. With permission, Hill-Zuganelli shared key themes and testimonials from the seminar confidentially with members of the campus LGBTQPIA+ issues task force and prepared a report on the learning activity. The

task force is now following this teaching template to host in-person and online student forums on appraising LGBTQPIA+ safety.



Peach receives Kentucky Librarian Award



Amanda Peach, assistant director of library services, received the 2021 Outstanding Academic Librarian Award in September 2021. This award recognizes a full-time employee of an academic library in Kentucky for their impact on their library and the profession; their commitment to library users and to diversity, equity and inclusion; and their strategic thinking and innovation in solving problems and improving library services, collections, and/or spaces.

Berea Student Honored on Ky. Firefighters Memorial

Walter Gay '65 was one of 14 names added to the Kentucky Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Frankfort, Ky. Gay, a senior political science major from Avon Park, Fla., was killed in 1965 when his rig overturned an embankment. He was honored by Gov. Andy Beshear at the 20th Annual Kentucky Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in September 2021.

"There are no more essential workers than our first responders, those who run into a burning building, those who get up every morning, put on their uniforms and leave the safety of their homes and families, willing to risk their lives for others," Gov. Beshear said.



Berea College Listed as Top Kentucky College

Berea College is ranked No. 148—the highest-ranked Kentucky college—in *The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* (THE) 2022 College Rankings. Berea also ranked No. 3 on the publication's list of "Best Value Colleges" in the nation.

"We are thrilled to be the top-ranking Kentucky college in both The Wall Street Journal/THE overall list and their 'Best Value Colleges' list for 2022," said President Lyle Roelofs. "One of our Great Commitments is to extend educational opportunity to all students—regardless of race or economic resources. Our no-tuition policy allows us to provide a high-quality college education to talented students who would not otherwise be able to afford it. Rankings like these put Berea on the map as students look for an affordable and transformative college experience."

"Our no-tuition policy allows us to provide a high-quality college education to talented students who would not otherwise be able to afford it."
 – President Lyle Roelofs

What's Hot on Social

86.1K reach



BEREA COLLEGE LIBRARY OFFERING 'TOUR' OF 500 HISTORIC, REGIONAL COOKBOOKS

Beginning the first Friday in November, patrons of Berea College's Hutchins Library can "tour" selections from the 500 historic, regional cookbooks housed in the library's Berea College - Special Collections & Archives. Participants will receive free blank recipe cards for recording their favorite recipes while learning more about cooking styles from as early as the 1700s. [#virtuallyBerea](#)

6.2K impressions



NEW MASCOT "BLUE" REVEAL

"This mascot will not only generate excitement around @Berea_Athletics, but I believe it will increase overall school spirit. We are all proud to be Mountaineers, and I think this mascot will only make us prouder to wear the blue and white."
 – Ryan Hess '98, Director of Athletics

10K views



HALLOWEEN CARVING PUMPKINS REEL

Happy Halloween!
 Song: Skeleton Dance
 Artist: Myuu
[#halloween](#) [#halloween2021](#)
[#pumpkins](#) [#pumpkin carving](#)
[#transitions](#) [#reel](#) [#bereacollege](#)
[#visitberea](#) [#highered](#) [#highereducation](#)

Berea Student Participants in Global Public Health Exchange Program

Maryam '24 participated in a U.S.-Iraq Global Public Health Program—COVID-19 virtual exchange program in summer 2021. The opportunity was funded by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and featured 60 students from the U.S. and 60 from Iraq. Maryam was a team captain and led a consultancy project on an Iraqi medical organization studying vaccine hesitancy. The goal of the virtual exchange program was for undergraduate and graduate students to work together to develop sustainable solutions to healthcare inequity in both countries, addressing issues that have arisen as a result of COVID-19.

In addition to developing solutions for healthcare inequity, the students shared cultural perspectives, promoting peace and trust, as well as developed 21st-century skills, such as collaboration and critical thinking.
 "Our hope is that students gain understanding about how different countries are experiencing the pandemic as well as skills in cultural humility and leadership," said Nancy Lowenstein, program director of Behavior and Health at Boston University.



Experience the Celebration—From Afar

Homecoming 2021 was a hybrid event, with most on-campus events focused on student participation, since continued concerns with COVID-19 prevented alumni from returning to campus. To access a gallery of photos from Homecoming activities, visit www.berea.college/Homecoming2021



Back Row (L-R): Wilmer Perez-Ortiz, William Woelki, Christoff Mendy, Taylor Gilbert, King Second Runner Up Edison Angamarca, President Lyle Roelofs, Blue, First Lady Laurie Roelofs, Queen Second Runner Up Stephanie Itumba, Mikayla Craig, Ryan Mowbray, Cameron Brown
Front Row (L-R): Siree McRady, King First Runner Up Anh Ngo, Queen First Runner Up Raquel Nunez, Berea Royalty King Cameron Stites-Stevens, Berea Royalty Queen Marlene Michel, 2019 Homecoming King Noe Guevara, Brooke Green, Tia Buntun

Crowning the Queen



Pres. Lyle Roelofs crowns 2021 Homecoming Queen Marlene Michel during coronation on November 20.

Get Your Alumni Baby Bib



We're drooling over baby London's Berea College alumni baby bib. London was born to Koty '15 and Tessa '15 Riley on Aug. 12, 2021. To get your baby bib, send a birth announcement with parents' names and class year to Alumni Relations at alumninews@bera.edu.

HELPING STUDENTS GROW

Symerdar Baskin receives Honorary Alumna Award

By Jodi Whitaker



Symerdar Baskin (middle right) stands with her husband, Prof. Andrew Baskin, children and grandchildren. Back row from left: daughter Thalethia Routt, grandson Xavier Routt and daughter Thameka Baskin. Front row, granddaughter Gabrielle Routt.

When Symerdar Baskin and her husband, Andrew, moved from Virginia to Kentucky in 1983, their plan was to stay five years.

As they close in on 40 years in Berea, the Baskins have been recognized for their dedication to Berea College and its students. Symerdar Baskin received an Honorary Alumna Award in November, presented to non-alumni in recognition of outstanding service to and demonstrated loyal interest in Berea College.

"We love Berea, and we love students," she said of the honor. "Berea has made such a positive impact on our lives."

When the couple first arrived in Berea to look for a house, it was Symerdar's first visit to Berea. She planned to continue teaching high school but learned she would need two more years of college to be able to teach in Kentucky. And even with those years of college, she wouldn't be guaranteed a job.

So she took a job in the Berea College Admissions office instead. There, she was

approached to become a salesperson for Kirby vacuum cleaners, leading her to discover her knack for sales. She later transitioned to selling insurance, a business she stayed in until retiring in 2011. Those jobs allowed her the flexibility to attend campus events with her husband and to be a part of the College community.

"There was always an activity, and I was on campus a great deal of time," Baskin said. "If something was happening that Andrew was involved in, I was usually there. I would go to convocations, dance tours; I could travel with him. Whenever he took students on a trip, I was there."

That relationship with students led the Baskins to invite students to their home at the end of each semester, where they provided a big, home-cooked meal.

"They would make requests for whatever they wanted," Baskin said. "Can we have some banana pudding this time? We didn't have that last time."

"Please make corn pudding," was another frequent request, she said.

Occasionally, students who were unable to go home for the holidays would spend them with the Baskins. "One student spent Thanksgiving with us three times, and she became family," Baskin said.

Watching students grow and go out on their own, then hearing from them regularly has been a blessing to both Andrew and Symerdar.

"Kids come to Berea green as grass, scared of their own shadow," she said. "We watch them mature into beautiful, caring young people. When they would come back, it would give you a sense of pride to know that you were there along the way."

In 2018, the Baskins decided to establish an endowed scholarship to help students and to carry their dedication into the future.

"We decided we wanted to do something for Berea, because Berea has made such a positive impact on our lives," Baskin said.

The Andrew and Symerdar Baskin Student Research Fund is scheduled to be awarded for the first time in 2022. The scholarship is intended to promote continuing education and research in African American culture and history.

"I would always hear Andrew telling students that if they wanted to know more about something, then 'do some research—dig into why things are this way; dig into any aspect of your culture that interests you,'" Baskin said. "Then, you realize there are really no funds to do that, specifically. We want to make sure students who want to know more about African American culture and history have the funds to do that."

For Baskin, the scholarship is a way to continue to show the love she and her husband have had for Berea for so many years.

"The most important aspect of educating students is to provide them with an opportunity to grow," she said. "I think the scholarship will provide them with a different avenue in which to grow that they normally would not have had access to. It will be exciting – we are looking forward to it." 📖

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

Baskin receives the alumni Rodney C. Bussey Award of Special Merit

By Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03

The only Berea faculty member to earn all three prestigious faculty awards given by the College, Andrew Baskin '72 left an indelible mark on his alma mater and the institution at which he served for 36 years. Baskin received the Rodney C. Bussey Award of Special Merit in November 2021, which is given to alumni who have been employed by the College, in recognition of their outstanding service to, demonstrated loyal interest in and extraordinary quality of work for Berea College.

Baskin was raised in Alcoa, Tenn., and came to Berea as a student in 1968. He majored in history and graduated with enough hours for a double major in Black studies. In 1975, he earned a master's degree in history at Virginia Tech University and went on to teach at Ferrum College in Virginia.

By 1983, he and his wife, Symerdar, decided to return to Berea, and he became the first director of the Black Cultural Center (BCC) and joined the College faculty. When Baskin was a Berea student, a degree in African and African American Studies was not yet a part of the college catalog. However, over the course of 36 years, Baskin transformed the BCC and the African and African American Studies (AFR) department. Through his contributions, AFR became a distinctive program of academic study.

At the center of all his accomplishments, Baskin says his highlight is the students he taught and built relationships with. "For me, success is that every student but one that has come into the AFR program has graduated—I have put my heart and soul into this," he said.

At the Academic Year Opening Program and Reception in 2017, Baskin was recognized for his upcoming retirement. One of his colleagues was quoted, saying "Students who have completed (or, in their words, 'survived') one of his classes feel an abiding connection with him. To be sure, a Baskin class is not for the faint-hearted. Be on time or be locked out. Have the courage of your convictions. Be prepared to defend your claims—again and again. Take your one wild and precious life seriously—because he certainly does. His classes can seem like, and in some respects are, trials—extended tests of learning and of


character, as well. Students recognize that they come out the other side of Andrew's classes empowered with greater knowledge of themselves. Andrew is among Berea's most thoroughly Socratic instructors and provocateurs, asking pointed questions of students and colleagues that puncture self-delusions and uncover inconsistencies of thought and action."

This deep commitment to student learning and growth earned Baskin the Seabury Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2004 and the Paul C. Hager Award for Excellence in Advising in 2016. On the eve of his 2019 retirement Baskin was awarded an honorary degree in African and African American Studies.

Over the years, Baskin's service to the College and community has been generous. His community service includes a stint as the moderator of the London District Baptist

Missionary and Educational Association and serving as pastor at the Hamilton Chapel Baptist Church in Flat Lick, Ky. His dedication to service earned him the Elizabeth Perry Miles Award for Community Service in 2002, and he sought to pass his service-minded approach on to his students.

"I've always told my students, 'You shouldn't just get an education for an education's sake,'" Baskin explained. "You should use your education to make your world better. The value should be that you are doing it to make the world that you live in better!"

"The value should come from something that is inside of you, that you know that you make things better," he continued. "That you can do something that will help someone else have a better life. To me, it is something intrinsic. It is your soul; it is your spirit." 



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

Submit class notes and photographs at www.berea.edu/alumni/classnote

1945

Jennie Westlake Findley writes: "In 1945, nine of us started a Round Robin Letter. Today, four are still circulating it. Dr. Louise Young Gossett, Carolyn Keener Howard, Kathleen Mieras Wright and Jennie Westlake Findley.

1949

Franklin Parker of Uplands Village, Pleasant Hill, Tenn., reached age 100 on June 2, 2021. Franklin and his wife, Betty Parker '50, (age 92) were greeted with signs and waves as they were driven through town. Pleasant Hill's mayor and town council in a proclamation declared June 2 to be "Franklin Parker Appreciation Day" and urged "all citizens to honor every elder and rededicate their lives to being the best person they were meant to be." The Parkers welcome contact at P.O. Box 406, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578. Read more: <http://ow.ly/gVab50GG8zN>



1950

Lola Sholar Cunningham shares: "I am 93 years old. I live in Lanier Village Estates, Ga., (retirement community—500 people). It is on 86 beautiful acres on Lake Lanier. I feel blessed to live in my own beautiful apartment. I still walk two hours each morning—I love nature!! My daughter lives five minutes away. She is married to a local surgeon who is native to Gainesville. His father was the first surgeon in town."

1953

Mary McWilliams Perry Fd. '53 hosted her family reunion on Berea's campus this past summer. The reunion included lunch at the Farm Store, a College tour and a bus tour guided by Perry that entailed visiting local places of family interest.

1955

Robert and Frances Edwards '56 celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary. They were married at Danforth Chapel by Dr. Gordon Ross '69. Frances celebrated her 88th birthday on July 15, and Edward's birthday is on December 15.



Margaret Molly Wetzel writes: "Survived COVID—older but not wiser! Love gardening and flowers. Healthy, addicted to TV show 'Oak Island'!"

Juanita Wilkerson, nursing graduate, penned that her husband, Robert Wilkerson '56, was a member of the Berea College tennis team and still plays doubles at age 91.

1956

Erma Jo Reedy Fielden wrote that Margaret Harkleroad, roommate and best friend for four years, fought cancer for almost 20 years but died this past year. Fielden says, "She was a very special friend."

1957

Imogene Bruce shared that her husband, Billy D. Bruce '56, passed away on April 17, 2020. He had vascular dementia for many years and was under hospice care for the last six months of his life. She misses him so much.

Agnes Kulungian Woolsey moved to Mendocino County, Calif., in 1993 after raising two children, and taught in Berkeley Public Schools for 27 years. In May 2019, Woolsey showed Landscapes in a Retrospective Exhibit at the Mendocino Art Center.

1960

Robert Lawson, retired, shared Rebecca Lawson, his wife, passed away Feb. 24, 2017. They both graduated from Berea College June 5, 1960. They married that day. Their Berea days are among his best memories.

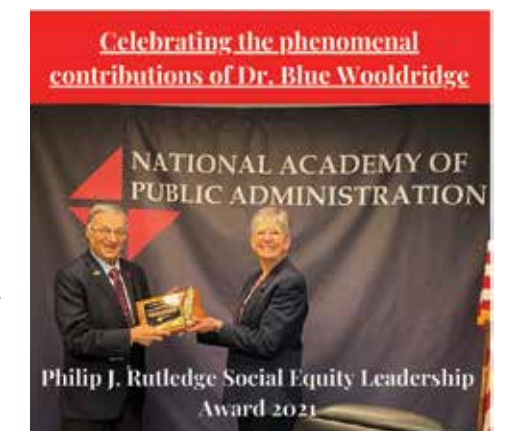
1961

Lylvia Messer lives in a retirement community called Friendship Living in Roanoke, Va.

Dr. Blue Wooldridge, as of June 2019, is Professor Emeritus of Public Administration and Policy at Virginia Commonwealth University. In addition to this emeritus status, he was recently recognized with the honorary designation in the inaugural cohort of VCU's Distinguished Career Professors.

In June 2021, he was the inaugural recipient of the Philip J. Rutledge Award, as an internationally recognized scholar whose work examines the role of administrators, systems and policies in promoting the equitable distribution of services. Dr. Wooldridge was honored by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) for more than a half century of leadership in addressing issues of equity in public administration. The Rutledge Award recognizes and celebrates the contributions of the late Academy Fellow Philip J. Rutledge, a visionary leader who worked to infuse social equity into the curriculum of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration or NASPAA-accredited programs and was a catalyst for making social equity one of the pillars of public administration. The award was presented during NAPA's Annual Social Equity Leadership Conference.

In July 2021, Wooldridge was recognized as the co-recipient of the 2020 Donald C. Stone Award from the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA). The award pays tribute to the contribution of Donald C. Stone, a founding father of IASIA, for his leadership and his long-dedicated service to IASIA and to acknowledge his outstanding contributions to the organization. The Stone award goes to IASIA members for outstanding contributions to the advancement and wellbeing of the association. The presentation of the Stone Award was delayed from 2020 since the annual conference in South Africa was postponed that year.



1965

June Cleek Amburgey Chard retired from State of Kentucky Human Services. Chard returned to Kingsport, Tenn., in 2003 and has been dedicated to feline rescue since 1999. She is presently running a major foster home for feline rescue and a no-kill shelter. Her passion has been spay/neuter, and she has trapped and fixed many felines since 2003. Her husband, Gilbert, passed away March 10, 2019.

1966

Diane Giffin Fernsler and George Fernsler, her husband, are still living in New York City. Retired and active, they are always happy to see Berea people.

1967

Jeanne Moran Gourley, Rose Pennington Wilkes, Phyllis Pigmon Osburn, Sandy Walker Kurtz and **Sandi Hale Stewart** have had "girlfriend getaways" every summer since 2014. They are sad that one of the "Berea Buds" has passed. They share, "Phyllis, you will be missed."



1968

James "Jim" Branscome reviews William H. Turner's new book "The Harlan Renaissance: Stories of Black Life in Appalachian Coal Towns." Read more: <http://ow.ly/G75c50GG810>

Margaret Walker Jeffers is an avid hiker. In August 2021, she checked Glacier National Park off her bucket list by hiking 54 miles in five days. Margaret and husband **Dave Jeffers** live in Versailles, Ky., where Dave is a beekeeper.



Mark A. Pross KH '68

retired on Jan. 2, 2021, as an assistant director with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington, D.C., after a 45-year career, including nearly 41 years with GAO. Pross led reviews for the U.S.

Congress on such diverse issues as the coronavirus pandemic; preparedness of U.S. forces to counter North Korean chemical and biological weapons; Department of Defense mission assurance; chemical and biological defense, biosafety and biosecurity; southwest border security; the assurance of defense critical infrastructure; drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq; security for the Olympic Games; international counterterrorism; combating terrorism; and world-wide aerospace plane research and development efforts. Some career highlights include serving in GAO's European Office in Frankfurt, West Germany, for four years (1982-1986), being detailed from GAO on three assignments to the U.S. Congress' House Armed Services' Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (1993-1994), being detailed from GAO to the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and serving as Head of GAO's Baghdad Field Office in Iraq (2009-2010). Pross conducted GAO review work in every cabinet-level department, in more than 250 different U.S. government agencies and organizations, on 491 military installations, in 73 U.S. diplomatic missions around the world, and in 50 foreign countries. He helped produce more than 300 GAO reports and congressional testimonies, and helped make more than 500 recommendations that resulted in more than a billion dollars in savings to U.S. taxpayers. Pross received numerous GAO awards, as well as awards from the Departments of Defense and State, U.S. Embassy Baghdad and U.S. Forces Iraq. Pross took 10 courses at Berea College while a junior and senior at Berea Community High School. He lives with **Marty Thomas Pross '72**, his wife, in Fauquier County, Va., and can be reached at mark_pross@hotmail.com

1969

Jerry Kidd has published his latest book "The United States of Kleptocracy: Elections Stolen USA." The volume tells how absentee and proxy voting were first developed during the Abraham Lincoln presidency.



David Maynard was recognized this past summer by the Kentucky Bankers Association for having worked 50 years in the banking industry. Read more: <http://ow.ly/a3ia50GG8KZ>



Ron Reed retired from Hazard Community and Technical College at the end of June 2021. He reflects on his time as an English professor and how Berea College helped him. Read more: <http://ow.ly/X8v050GG8Nn>

1971

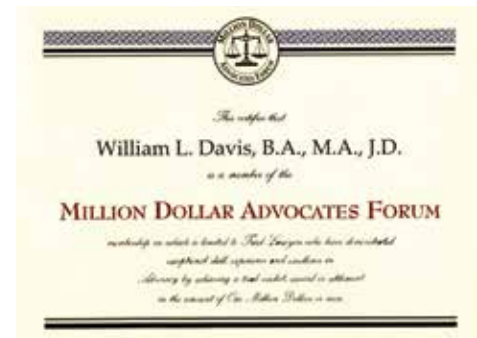
Lt. Col. Sidney E. Atwater, USMC (Ret.) Fd. '67 announces the publication of his book "By, For, and About Marines." The book is a compendium of famous and not-so-famous quotes (set in time, place and speaker) of the United States Marine Corps. He and **Kathy Bowles Atwater '70** live at 3503 Springville Dr., Valrico, FL 33596. The book is available through Amazon, Xlibris and Barnes and Noble.

1972

Emma Fultz Cox wrote that Cortland "Corky," her husband, passed Dec. 19, 2019. They were married 46 years. He is greatly missed by his family.

1974

William L. Davis was certified as a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum on May 24, 2021. For more information on the membership qualifications, visit www.MillionDollarAdvocates.com



1978

John and **Susan Alexander** have taught broom making to Radford University's Occupational Therapy graduate students for many years. Final exam flyoff was very successful. They also taught poplar bark basket making and Appalachian toy making to the group. RU incorporates Appalachian crafts into its occupational therapy curriculum. John learned broom making from Johnny Reed at Broomcraft in the 1970s.



Rev. Dr. Lynne Blankenship Caldwell was appointed by Bishop Paul Leeland (WNC Conference of The United Methodist Church) on July 1, 2021, to serve as vice president and dean of programs for Neighborhood Seminary, beginning her 34th year of ministry in The United Methodist Church. Neighborhood Seminary teaches clergy and laity how to show up, pay attention, collaborate with God and their neighbors, and change the world. For more information, visit www.neighborhoodseminary.org. Lynne and her husband, Neill Caldwell, make their home in Winston-Salem, N.C. She may be contacted at lynnebcaldwell@gmail.com.

Jeff Hutton coordinated the salvage of the Gib Roberts Observatory and telescope from the Hall Science Building, which was demolished during the summer of 2021. The observatory dome is slated for use by cadets of the U.S. Naval Academy and the Boller and Chivens Telescope is being repurposed in British Columbia as a research instrument to study the atmospheric densities of the outer planets and for Near Earth Asteroid tracking. Jeff retired from the Education Department from Xavier University in 2017 and now lives in Berea with his wife. If you'd like to share your memories of the Gib Roberts Observatory, please send to jeffp.hutton@gmail.com. Read more: <http://ow.ly/H5OX50GG8PZ>



1979

Andrew Fulton retired in November 2020 after 19 years as a school psychologist in Vermont. Prior to that, he worked for 14 years as a child and family therapist in various community mental health positions. An English major at Berea, he later earned a master's degree in counseling psychology from Antioch University of New England (1987). He is now building a second boat and looking forward to traveling and seeing new places and old friends.

1983

Darlene Thomas-Hilsenbeck retired in 2018 after 35 years in the education field. She is enjoying spending her free time with her two kids, two grandbabies and her husband of 33 years.



Julia K. Pearson received the 2021 Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award at the Public Defender Awards Luncheon in May 2021. Julia celebrated her 32nd anniversary as a public defender and her 18th as an attorney in the Appeals Branch on June 1, 2021.

1985

Jeffrey Charles Peters is the owner of JCP Landscaping for 23 years. He is married to MaryAnne Miller and they have a daughter, Isabel. He thanks Berea for instilling a good work ethic in him, and he says hello to all his Berea friends!! "We had a great time," writes Peters.

1988

Dr. J. David O'Dell received the Glenville State College 2021 Faculty Award of Excellence. Dr. O'Dell, professor of chemistry, was recognized at the spring 2021 commencement ceremony. Read more: <http://ow.ly/Se0P50GG8RI>

1989

Dreama Gentry discusses how a new initiative called the Rural Library Network arose from the pandemic and works to link librarians and educators together to share best practices. Gentry talks about the project and the partnerships created. Read more: <http://ow.ly/Vsh350GG8TH>

Michael Woodard, green house manager in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, was one of six agriculturalists featured in Purdue University's series titled "Behind the Research." The article details how Woodard's work is essential to their research mission. Read more: <http://ow.ly/UqS050GG8WF>

1992

Maggie Earp Cowie was recently named one of the top women in retail technology for 2021 by Retail Info Systems (RIS) News. Each year, RIS News recognizes female technology leaders who are redefining the industry that touches the lives of millions of consumers. Read more: <http://ow.ly/kx1i50GG9I5>



1999

Rebecca Gayle Minton Westerman recently published two children's alphabet books on Amazon. 'A is for Apocalypse,' and 'Z is for Zombie.' They are both quite playful but might not be for everyone. Westerman published her first novel in 2018, called 'Rising Ash.' It's a zombie apocalypse young adult book and the sequel is coming soon! (It's currently with the editor.) This and a number of short stories are available on her author page on Amazon under R.G. Westerman."

2000

Dr. Katrina Suzanne Thacker, Ph.D. is a member of the Academy of American Poets. Dr. Thacker is working on her own poetry manuscript of poems to be self-published as a chapbook. Her poetry has been published in the Blue Spruce Newsletter, *Small Town Life Magazine*, and the *Appalachian News-Express*. Thacker is a member of the Pikeville Poetry Organization. She received a 40-hour online Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certificate from the Teaching English as a Foreign Language Foundation of the United Kingdom of Oxford. She taught English as a Second Language (ESL) online in Shanghai, China, in English town for three months.

2002

Tiffany Loftis Arnold defended her completed dissertation entitled "Is Low Self-Efficacy Related to The Poverty Dip in Mathematics?: A Mixed Methods Research," on Aug. 12, 2021.

Regina Fugate, technology computer science teacher, grades 6-12, at Maryland School for the Blind in Baltimore, Md., was named recipient of one of the Computer Science Teachers Association Equity Fellowships. Read more: <http://ow.ly/QTmI50GG9uL>

Fugate also received the 2021 Outstanding Teacher of Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired from The Council of Schools and Services for the Blind. Read more: <http://ow.ly/y2nM50GG9wb>

BIRTH: a daughter, Sunny Tru Mayes McClintock, born to **Jonathan McClintock** and Jessica McClintock on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2021.



Rev. Dr. Samuel Weddington successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on May 6, 2021. Entitled "For the Beauty of the Earth: Faith, Ecology, and Care," his thesis explored the intersection of Christian faith and an ethic of ecological care, centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ.



2004

Curtis Hance, on Jan. 26, 2021, had a full mental breakdown and succumbed to matrimony to **Vivian Cameron Hance '06** in a small ceremony at The Historic Boone Tavern Hotel. **Pastor Blake Gulley '09** presided over the event.

Hance, owner of H&H Vapors and Newport, Tennessee Hemp, CBD & Kratom, won several People's Choice Awards in 2021. H&H Vapors won Best Vapor Shop and Friendliest business and Newport Tennessee Hemp, CBD & Kratom won Best Retail Shop.



2005

Dr. Ashley D. Anderson received one of the Alumni Fellows awards for graduates of the University of Louisville during their annual award ceremony. To watch the awards ceremony or read more about Dr. Anderson's accomplishments visit: <http://ow.ly/AsXY50GG9zj>

Chris Hayes joined Sesame Street as a puppeteer. Hayes got his start at Berea College and through lots of hard work, became the puppeteer and voice behind Elijah, the father of Elmo's friend, Wes. Read more: <http://ow.ly/EqmN50GG9BZ>

2006

BIRTH: a daughter, Elora Lane Worley was born to **Cassie Russell Worley** and **Shawn Worley '07** on Feb. 4, 2021. She joins older brothers Jude (2011) and Cooper (2014).



2007

Dr. Patrick McGrady was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor at the University of New Haven, Conn.

Keena Mullins, co-founder of Revolt Energy in West Virginia, speaks about the growth of Revolt Energy and the transition from coal to solar power in Forbes. Read more: <http://ow.ly/oUgY50GG9Ee>

Emily Ogata Puckett

began legal studies at the University of Kentucky in the fall. She earned a three-year, full-tuition scholarship, plus a stipend as a J. David Rosenberg College of Law Scholar.

She and her husband, **Kevin Puckett '06**, live with their six children in Lexington, Ky.



Morgan Younge combines hip-hop and theater in her three-week program where students rehearse and learn the script for her original piece titled "Hip Hop Herc." Younge is a teaching artist, actress and creator in Louisville, Ky. Read more: <http://ow.ly/9j4650GG9G1>

2008

Brenda Hornsby Heindl reflects on her work as a librarian in Liberty, N.C., as well as being one of 22 librarians in the U.S. to receive one of the inaugural Partners for Education Rural Library Fellowship. Read more: <http://ow.ly/gnkQ50GG9IC>

Valton Jackson, actor and recording artist, was featured on *The Open News* for his many talents and growing success. Read more: <http://ow.ly/Tjkj50GG9K0>

2009

Mary Johnson writes: "You don't know me but I was a student at Berea from 2005-2009. Those were without a doubt the best four years of my life! I started college a couple of years late as my father passed away during my senior year of high school and I honestly wasn't sure what I wanted to do as far as my future was concerned. Everyone said I should pursue a career in writing because I'm a natural writer. Well, I majored in Child & Family Studies instead. So not exactly what I know now I should've gone with, but I believe that each step in one's journey is part of a puzzle to get them full-circle. When I was in my junior year there at Berea, I took Intro to Women and Gender Studies (I believe it was called) with Peggy Rivage-Seul and one of the books we had to read for the class was the book "A Parchment of Leaves" by Berea's very own Silas House. Great, something else to read...I thought to myself. Honestly, I hated reading back then because I had to do so much of it that didn't interest me much at all. But I was pleasantly surprised by it and literally could NOT put it down once I started. I still have the book and reread it about once a year. It's a great story of small-town Appalachian hills and the people who live

amongst their peaks and valleys. Anyway, about six years ago, some friends of mine kept saying "you need to write a book about your life and all you've gone through." I dismissed the idea because I didn't know a thing about marketing, etc. Over time, I started putting stories together from my mind on paper and after years of editing, reordering, having it proofread, etc., I finally was ready to publish. My brother (age 40) passed away in April 2021 and I'd always promised him I'd get it out to the world somehow. So, I did. I self-published through Amazon as a Kindle e-book. I do have to warn you that the formatting has gone all sorts of crazy no matter how I've tried to edit it per the Word document version required for submission. I even contacted them about it and they said that sometimes that's just how text transfers to Kindle format and that it won't show up so "choppy" on all platforms. The book can be purchased here: <http://ow.ly/joB850GG9NU>

Melvin Brown was promoted to University Heights Academy athletic director and has been named the varsity head coach. Read more: <http://ow.ly/sjsU50GG9MQ>

Nina T. Yarbrough was named the arts program director for 4Culture in July 2021. The position began in September. Read more: <http://ow.ly/kGcZ50GG9RA>

2010

Krista Shaffer wrote and published an e-book on Amazon about her late beloved. It is a story about Hector's life and also their love. The title of the book is "Hector: Gold at the End of My Rainbow." Shaffer lives in Tucson, Ariz. The book is available for purchase on Amazon here: <http://ow.ly/GcVT50GG9T9>



Justin Thomas was promoted from extension agent and county director for the University of Tennessee Extension Service to regional program leader for Family and Consumer Sciences/4-H Youth Development on April 1, 2021. He will provide leadership to FCS and 4-H Extension programs in 33 counties of East Tennessee

2012

Laura Howard Bellnier earned a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Kentucky in May 2021. During her last semester of the program, she received the "Outstanding Master of Public Health Student" Award. Bellnier began a position as a research associate in the University of Kentucky Department of Otolaryngology this past summer, where she will be working on several studies related to hearing healthcare in Kentucky.

2013

Kelly Korb passed the Certified Addictions Registered Nurse examination on April 3, 2021. She currently resides in Shrewsbury, Mass., and works as an addictions nurse.



2014

Jordan Neal Hutchins graduated from the University of Kentucky in 2021 with his Master of Science in Library Science. He is excited to serve the public as a librarian.



Dean Leeper, ceramic artist, held an artist talk in conjunction with Ashton Keen on June 17, 2021. An artist reception and exhibit were held the following week. Read more: <http://ow.ly/ChLF50GGuMn>

Christina Meadows was hired as Newport Central Catholic's new cheerleading coach in Northern Kentucky. Meadows also teaches music and theatre. Read more: <http://ow.ly/YGLa50GG9Yz>

Emmanuel Watkins accepted the call to serve as a staff minister and smalls groups manager at Faith Chapel in Birmingham, Ala., in June 2021. Faith Chapel was started by Berea alums, **Rev. Mike Moore '77** and his wife, **Kennetha Moore '79**.



2015

Jarod Cox uses natural Kentucky resources to craft his jewelry. His art designs are also inspired by the region. Read more: <http://ow.ly/PrYu50GGa02>

BIRTH: a daughter, Aster Diana, to **Sarah Wyble Davis** and husband, Jacob Davis, on Dec. 17, 2020.



Dr. Emmanuel Tachu

earned a Ph.D. in Information Technology at the University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg, Ky., in May 2021. His dissertation focused on a quantitative study of the relationship between information technology infrastructure flexibility on-premise and cloud computing adoption in enterprise environments. Dr. Tachu currently works as an associate DevOps manager at nCino, a cloud banking company with headquarters in Wilmington, N.C. He also teaches data communication and network security classes at Portland Community College. Given his eagerness for continuous learning and his interest in engineering leadership and innovation management in a global economy, Tachu is currently exploring opportunities to pursue a doctorate in business administration.



2016

Stephanie Hardy is enjoying success as a podcast host, content creator and commentator. *The Hardy Wrestling Podcast*, a show centered on reporting and recapping the world of professional wrestling in a chill, positive and passionate way, is close to reaching 70 episodes. She is also a co-host of *Women's Wrestling Talk* on Fite TV with visionary pop culture host TK Trinidad and a color commentator for The BellaDonna Division, the first all-female wrestling promotion in Alabama.



Carmellia Jackson was named director for Kentucky's chapter of the New Leader Council. Read more: <http://ow.ly/x4sM50GGa31>

2017

Dr. Morgan Cheyenne Stacy, DVM, graduated from Lincoln Memorial University's College of Veterinary Medicine on May 22, 2021. She was the recipient of the 2021 LMU-CVM Shelter Medicine Award. She has returned to reside in the southwest Virginia area and plans to begin practicing veterinary medicine in the Bristol, Tenn., area.



2018

Mary "Abby" Schueler attends law school at the University of Kentucky. She encourages any current Berean to come to her with any questions they may have. Schueler also shares she married Jim Thomerson. She says she misses the Poli Sci Department and Dr. Bey and Dr. Huck.

2019

Derby Chukwudi presented at Berea College's convocation program Sept. 2, 2021. Her talk entitled "The Road Less Taken: Charting the Journey to a Dynamic Career," charts her journey and encourages others to obtain life and work skills through their own vigorous experiences.



2020

BIRTH: a daughter, Mary Kathrine, to **Alli Silas Baldwin** and husband, Trey Baldwin, on Aug. 19, 2021 at Fort Logan Hospital in Stanford, Ky.



Landon Howard Bond loved to run. At Berea, Bond ran Cross Country, winning first place in both his last 5k and 10k. Sadly, he passed away from Brugada Syndrome on Sept. 22, 2019. His condition was undiagnosed at the time of his passing. His parents wished to honor him by providing scholarships to worthy runners in Jackson and Laurel counties, Ky. Three scholarships were awarded this past summer. Read more: <http://ow.ly/SgCS50GGa4Z>



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Gabriela Bermudez '21 and her son on the playground at Berea's Ecovillage, the College's non-traditional and sustainable housing.

PASSAGES

Staff & Faculty

Barbara Faye Cummins
Child and Family Studies (1989-2004)
June 27, 2021

Roy Himes
Facilities Management (1978-2010)
Aug. 27, 2021

1930s

Mr. Roy Deaton '30
Obituary Unavailable

Donna Corns Geagley '37
July 28, 2016

1940s

Carl I. Crabtree Acad '41
July 25, 2021

Mary Sanlin Miller '41
Aug. 17, 2016

Lydia Mae Roberts '41
March 20, 2019

Audrey Louise Dodd Bales '42
July 16, 2021

Hazel Hughey Canon '42
April 5, 2021

Eliza Hamilton Heinsen '42
May 24, 2020

Bernice Clark Hall '46
Sept. 11, 2021

William James Morgan KH '46
Sept. 25, 2020

Sara Crain Randall Fd '46
Aug. 3, 2021

Martha Hutcherson Cochran Fd '47
April 12, 2021

Ruth Steinberg Geis '47
Obituary Unavailable

Billie Sue Davis Cornelius '48
Jan. 31, 2021

Joseph M. Couch Fd '48
Dec. 29, 2017

Robert Morrison Knox Fd '48
June 8, 2021

Beverly M. Chapman
Spouse of **Dr. Frederick Lamar Chapman '49**
Oct. 20, 2020

Mahala Smith Edwards Fd '49
July 8, 2021

1950s

David W. Gilreath '50
April 15, 2017

Stokes Royal Pearson '51
April 10, 2021

Sheila Strunk Pyle Fd '48, '51
Aug. 30, 2021

Glenna Sawyer Rice '51
Feb. 9, 2021

Cora Dixon Campbell '52
Feb. 16, 2016

Ross E. Duncan
Spouse of **Marilyn Arend Duncan '52**
June 16, 2021

Dr. Charles E. Baker Acad '49, '53
Aug. 4, 2021

Louise Johnson Brown '53
Aug. 7, 2021

Peggy Mask Lowdermilk '53
Dec. 15, 2020

Dr. William W. Marion '53
June 11, 2021

Dr. Rosemary Maxie Weddington '53
Sept. 6, 2021

Everett Gray '54
April 5, 2020

Philip M. Hampton '54
July 24, 2021

Elna Cornett Rosenberger '54
Aug. 4, 2021

Garnet Perry VanHorn '54
Sept. 3, 2021

Frances Dotson Lane Fd '55
Obituary Unavailable

John Newcomer '55
Aug. 19, 2021

Rosa Israel Stallard '55
April 14, 2021

Franklin H. Welder
Spouse of **Delma Parker Welder '55**
Jan. 25, 2020

Beverly Ring Wesley '55
June 3, 2021

Billy D. Bruce '56
April 17, 2020

Arthur Vernon Flynn Jr. '56
May 7, 2021

Margaret Bevins Harkleroad '56
March 20, 2020

Wanda Jean Feltner Fd '53, '57
Jan. 23, 2021

Janet Cook St. Clair '57
April 28, 2021

Bob Morgan '58
Aug. 10, 2021

Luther Whitaker '58
April 25, 2017

Marvin E. Carroll '59
May 28, 2021

Paul Conley Comstock '59
Aug. 9, 2021

Albert Francis LaPalme '59
Jan. 28, 2021

Reba Salyers McClanan '59
Aug. 29, 2021

Geraldine Burdine Mize '59
May 18, 2021

George Allen Simmons '59
March 15, 2021

1960s

Bobby N. Batie '60
Sept. 23, 2020

James C. Coomer '60
July 27, 2021

J. Ron Williams
Spouse of **Susan Hall Williams '60**
Obituary Unavailable

Gene Haywood Campbell '61
Aug. 8, 2021

Doris Burton Hail '61
July 6, 2021

James B. Hickman '61
July 24, 2021

Helen Shepherd Klingler '61
May 17, 2021

Dr. Robert S. Adkins '62
June 8, 2016

Freeman Hughes '62
May 3, 2021

Dr. Anne Cole Keast '62
Aug. 13, 2021

Joseph T. Price '62
Nov. 14, 2017

Ruby Ann Wong Lelea '63
July 3, 2021

John A. Pennycuff '63
July 31, 2021

Wayne Reid '63
June 20, 2021

Ginny Jones Small '63
Aug. 7, 2021

Gary Ray Bonner '64
March 19, 2021

Doris Nevels Wilson '64
Feb. 7, 2021

Dr. Arnold R. Frazier '65
June 1, 2021

Leo S. Arnold '66
May 1, 2021

Doris Watts Godbey '66
July 16, 2021

Mr. Michael D. Hurley
Spouse of **Mary Caponite Hurley '67**
Jan. 23, 2021

Judith McElrath Hobson '68
April 15, 2021

Thresa C. Robinson '68
May 31, 2021

Roger Dale Bengé '69
Sept. 4, 2021

1970s

Frank Hudson '70
June 10, 2021

Allen E. Williams '70
Aug. 5, 2021

Dexter Collett '71
Aug. 25, 2021

Sharon A. Osolnik '71
Dec. 13, 2020

James Burton Wolford '71
Dec. 23, 2016

Cortland "Corky" Cox
Spouse of **Emma Fultz Cox '72**
Dec. 19, 2019

Nancy (June) Barbare Castle '73
March 2, 2021

Lonnie Estep '73
Aug. 9, 2021

Vicky Davis '74
May 8, 2021

Donna Sturgill Pruitt '75
July 15, 2021

Anna Joyce UMBER Mapp '76
June 20, 2021

James L. Rowlette '76
July 11, 2021

Hilda Marcum Brown '77
March 22, 2018

Dr. Gary Robin Phillips '78
June 30, 2021

William "Bill" Lee Hamilton '79
Aug. 3, 2021

1980s

Premilla Perera Dassenaiki '80
Dec. 4, 2016

Rebecca A. White '82
July 20, 2019

Stephen Wyatt Gunkler '87
April 14, 2021

Teresa Paulina Ramey '89
Dec. 26, 2020

Emily Anne Saderholm '89
Aug. 5, 2021

1990s

Eric Lyn Baker '90
Sept. 20, 2021

John "Bam" Mitchell Carney '91
July 17, 2021

Joy Heather Richardson '92
June 21, 2021

Tim Lam '93
May 14, 2021

Margaret E. Ricketts '93
May 8, 2021

Charles "Chuck" Eldon Morgan '94
Aug. 17, 2021

Peggy A. Pollard '96
April 24, 2021

Anthony Lamont Coleman '97
Sept. 3, 2019

Billy R. Spicer '97
April 24, 2020

2000s

Sonya Comfort Ofunne '05
Sept. 11, 2021

2010s

Blake K. Crowe '14
May 10, 2021

Edwin Lemus Silva '19
Aug. 14, 2021

Read full obituaries on our website at <https://magazine.berea.edu>



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	75	5.4%
Effective July 1, 2021 Reconfirmed April 26, 2021	80	6.5%
	90+	8.6%

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BEREA COLLEGE

Photo taken by Tyler Rocquemore '22. She is a student photographer in the Marketing and Communications department for her work assignment as part of Berea College's Labor Program.

CONTACT THE OFFICE OF PLANNED GIVING AT GIFTPLANNING@BEREA.EDU OR CALL (800) 457-9846.



Welcome to the Berea College Trace.

While some of our campus was shut down for the better part of last year, many of us have been working to ensure that when you return, we can offer you better service and more things to do and explore! We would love it if you would put us on your travel itinerary and come visit us when the time is right for you. Reach out and let us know you're coming, and we'll be more than happy to make sure you have an enjoyable stay.

Email us at bctrace@berea.edu

www.bctrace.com

