

BEREA COLLEGE

MAGAZINE



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Emily A. Parrish, Senior Graphic Designer
Crystal Wylie '05, Director of Photography and Digital Engagement
JoJo Wray '04, Content Contributor

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Cora Allison '22, Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03, Kim Kobersmith, Jason Lee Miller, Sree PS '23, Michele Pekola, Jodi Whitaker

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Osman Bin Aamir '23, Eduardo Alvarez '23, Lacy Fields '24, Gaston Jarju '23, Nay Kaw '23, Anh Ngo '24, Christopher Rice '22, Tyler Rocquemoore '22, Malik Withrow '24, Crystal Wylie '05

Cover photo: Christopher Rice '22

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

Editor, Berea College Magazine
Berea College
CPO 2142
Berea, KY 40404
magazine@berea.edu

AT YOUR SERVICE

Web: www.berea.edu
Mail: CPO 2142, Berea, KY 40404
Phone: 859.985.3018
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Siree '22 collects vintage suitcases that catch her eye at consignment shops and flea markets all over the world. She is the child of Berea College alumni and has served as the student social media manager for Marketing and Communications for the past two years.



ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:

View a video to discover more about Siree's experience, education and collection at www.berea.college/Suitcase-Siree



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Berea Alumni and Friends,

It's funny how leaving home can sometimes lead you home. Growing up in a military family, I moved a lot as a kid. Though this allowed me to experience different people, places and cultures, it left me feeling like I wasn't "from" anywhere—there was no place I truly belonged. I went to high school with people who had known each other since kindergarten, and on top of that, many of them were from very wealthy families—two things to which I could not relate.

It was a sweltering August day when I moved to Berea. After placing my few belongings into the residence hall amid my new roommate's scarce belongings, my mom and I went to the store to purchase a small fridge because there wasn't room enough in the car to bring one with me. But the local store was sold out, so we had to drive 15 minutes up the interstate to Richmond. On the way back, traffic came to a dead standstill for more than three hours. I remember panicking that I was missing the first orientation events of the day, fearful that without those first events, I'd never break into a new group and make friends. By the time I returned to campus, the brutal sun was dipping below the mountains, and my new roommate had already left the College—I never even laid eyes on her. But I still had time to make it to the last orientation ice-breaker event in Seabury gym. It was there, while doing the limbo, that I met someone who would eventually become my lifelong best friend—and partner. Scott Darst '02 was a resident assistant in Blue Ridge Residence Hall and was staffing the limbo activity that evening. The way I wriggled under that bar must have caught his eye; he introduced himself and invited me to play sand volleyball at The Ridge that night. There's a lot more to this story, but suffice to say that 18 years of marriage (next month) later, that spiky-haired, Backstreet Boy-looking young man is still my best friend.

Every year, I love telling our whole crazy story to the cheerleaders I coach here at the College, as I help these young athletes find their place at Berea. Everyone's story is unique. Everyone's journey is completely their own. Some involve love matches like Charles '87 and Regina Jackson '85 on Page 14, and some hinge on dysfunction and the opportunity to overcome it like Bobi Conn '02 on Page 28. But all Bereans have a trek worth talking about and a Berea sojourn worth sharing. I hope you enjoy the varied stories of time, place and person that connect us all through these pages.

Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03
Editor

Always Finish What You Start

Cora Allison '22

After nearly 20 years, two advanced degrees and a heart set on service, Dr. George Richards '02 decided that not receiving his degree from Berea was a mistake he would not soon get over.

"Not getting a degree from Berea was one of my biggest regrets," Dr. Richards said. "Sometimes, we don't really appreciate the opportunities we have when we have them—not until much later."

Richards, a Kentuckian from Mount Washington, was raised in a rural farm community between Louisville and Bardstown, Ky. Both of his parents worked full time, his mom a receptionist and his dad a farmer, but their

finances still qualified Richards for admission to Berea.

"All of my classmates were going to the University of Louisville at the time, and I just didn't want to go with the crowd on that one," he said.

He and his friend planned a trip to check out the campus in October 1982. Upon arrival, Richards knew he was in the right place. "The day was absolutely perfect," he recalled. "It was an autumn day, and leaves were falling on the Quad, and we went on a tour from the

a history professor. I've had few moments of distinct clarity like that in my entire life."

Richards worked in woodcraft as his labor assignment for his first year, and as a resident assistant for the remainder of his time at Berea. During his third year of school, life happened. Richards had

personal problems arise that were not conducive to finishing Berea, so he left.

After taking some time off, he transferred to the University of Louisville to finish up his bachelor's

"The reputation of Berea precedes you. People know what a great place it is, and a Berea College degree means something. That's part of why I went back; I wanted to have that degree."

— Dr. George Richards '02

admissions office. I was hooked."

In the subsequent fall of 1983, Richards enrolled in Berea College as a first-year student with an undeclared major. He recalls taking a class with a professor who left an impression and inspired his own career aspirations.

"I sat in my very first college classroom in Western Civilization with Dr. Warren Lambert," he reflected. "As I listened to him, I knew right then and there that I wanted to be

degree and graduated in 1992. He went on to earn his master's degree while completing a teaching assistantship in Criminal Justice Administration. "They (U of L) offered me the assistantship, and at the beginning, all I had was a piece of chalk and no idea what I was doing. Luckily, it got better from there."

While Richards was working on his doctoral degree at the University of Akron, he connected with a previous professor from Berea, Dr. Mike Berheide. They kept in touch and caught up from time to time, and Dr. Berheide did some digging around to see what it would take for Richards to complete his undergraduate degree from Berea.

"It turns out, all I had left was the physical education requirement!" Richards said. "So, I took golf and that was it."

Nineteen years from his first college class, Richards received his degree from

Berea College in February 2002. His son, Michael, was 3 at the time, and he wanted to be an example for Michael to always finish what he started.

"The reputation of Berea precedes you," Richards said. "People know what a great place it is, and a Berea College degree means something. That's part of why I went back; I wanted to have that degree."

While reflecting on his time at the College, Richards shared that he credits so much of his interest in service to Berea's dedication to community. "It was always made clear what was expected of us as Berea students, both how to conduct ourselves while there and what was expected of us afterwards. But it was always: service, service, service."

After finishing his doctoral program, Richards took a teaching position with Edinboro University (Pennsylvania) in the Department of Criminal Justice and Political Science. He has worked there for the past 18 years but is committed to service work beyond the university.

"Berea instilled in me the desire to give back, and I think I've particularly been better about executing it in the past 10 years," he said. Richards sits on the board of directors for three different orphanages in Africa, two in Sierra Leone and one in Uganda. In tandem with his work with Professors Without Borders, he has also been providing literacy courses and academic support for people in Nepal, Myanmar and Romania.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dream Again Orphanage in Sierra Leone was faced with the need to conduct business virtually. The organization, dedicated to providing homes for children of Ebola virus victims, was one of Richards' most recent endeavors as he helped them move their processes online.

"I'm going to teach as long as I can teach," he said, "but I know my service work will continue for the rest of my life." ■



Dr. George Richards '02 left Berea early. After earning a doctoral degree, he returned nearly two decades later to finish a distinctive Berea College degree.



Music: Food for the Soul

By Sree P S '23

Visiting Ali '22 on the third floor of Kettering Residence Hall is a Sunday-evening ritual for a group of 10 to 15 students who know about his culinary talents. On the way to his floor, the residence hall elevator shaft is perfumed with the scent of Karachi's spices—cardamom, turmeric and Garam Masala sautéed in olive oil—as its aroma pervades multiple floors. While making a Pulao that melts in your mouth, Ali often bursts into a song, either Hindostani, Western Classical or a fusion of both.

Ali is a music major in possession of artistic and scientific skills and temperament that range over many domains, from cuisine to policymaking, teaching, mathematics and chemistry. For him, cooking is the means to get away from academic stress and expectations.

"Berea's academic rigor is not a joke by any stretch of the imagination," Ali said. "So, everybody needs a way to relax. For most people, that could be music. But when you start studying music, you might sometimes lose the ability to listen to it only for pleasure. Because when I listen to music now, my brain switches on instantly, and I'm off analyzing it and doing things like that. So, I had to find a way to relax, and cooking became that thing.

"My mother was a very conservative woman, so she didn't really appreciate men in the kitchen back home in Karachi," Ali continued. "So when I got a chance here, I was like, 'I like this.' I've always been intrigued by cooking."

There are many ways Ali experiments with music and food, and practices making both. He believes that practicing

one's craft is the only way to master it, and he spends four hours each day on his drums or extending the notes of his vocal range. Music is his meditation, his submission to something larger than himself.

The 34-year-old displays a brazen yet upliftingly respectful sense of humor that can make anybody burst out laughing. Yet, his jubilant demeanor is an essential part of his personality that has withstood and overcome so many challenges in life as he discovered his love and passion for music.

“It was in his class that I learned the distinction between existing and living—what it feels like to love something. I felt, for the first time, called to music. I felt that, if I were to do this, I would make the world a better place.”

— Ali '22

"This is my second chance at life," Ali said. "This is my second time in Berea. I was here 11 years ago and had to leave in the middle of my sophomore year, when my mother died, to take care of my sister and to fulfill the responsibilities to my family. I came here first as a math major, fitting the stereotypical expectations of a South Asian. But right after I took my first music class with Mark Calkins, one of my favorite people on the planet right now, I decided to become a musician. It was in his class that I learned the distinction between existing and living—what it feels like to love something. I felt, for the first time, called to music. I felt that, if I were to do this, I would make the world a better place. If I were to do anything else besides this, I would make my own circumstances better but may or may not

make an impact on the world."

After returning to Pakistan, Ali started to learn music by himself, alongside his careers as an educator and a policy maker at a local liberal arts university. With what he learned from Berea and the skills he picked up himself out of sheer grit, he released his first single, "Chaarasaazi," which was nominated for the Lux Style Awards, a national recognition in his country. He crowd-sourced his first music album, "Khudsar," with his band Aam Tateel, which is available on Spotify. After

making sure his sister had finished her education, and confident that he had made fruitful use of his time, Ali decided to reapply to Berea to re-explore what he had left unfinished.

This time, Ali is moving his career and learning forward at trailblazing speed. He has a perfect 4.0 GPA and won second place at the Kentucky Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Fall 2021, which was his first music competition in the U.S. He also is working on composing and producing his second album, which he envisions as an intermingling of diverse musical styles. Ali embodies hard work combined with talent, and his journey exemplifies the way a Berea professor can inspire a life. [B](#)



Osman Bin Aamir '23

Bringing It All to the Table



Christopher Rice '22

By Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03

As a baby, Dr. Jamilah Page wanted to be included when her mom was cooking; she'd cry if her mother wasn't holding her. Even as a toddler, Page loved looking in every pot, inhaling the aroma of spices, good food and joy—finding family connection in the kitchen of her Birmingham, Ala., home. It's been a long journey for Page from her happy place in the kitchen on her mother's hip to finding her happy space in the lab kitchen of Berea's Child and Family Studies (CFS) building, engulfed in the smell of fresh-baked biscuits and the sound of student laughter.

"Making biscuits in the lab was the highlight of my month," Page said. "I love, love, love being in the kitchen and being with students doing these things."

Page joined Berea's faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor in 2021, having recently completed her Ph.D. at Auburn University. She is the first in her family to earn a doctoral degree, and she led the way as the first child in her family to graduate college from Tuskegee University—she was followed by her two sisters, and between the three of them, they now hold five degrees.

"The one thing I love about my family as a whole is it didn't matter what you wanted to do, my parents made my siblings and me feel invincible," Page recalled. "Life shows you you're not, but they pushed us and said, 'Whatever you decide to do, we'll be here to support it.'"

That unconditional support didn't mean the path was easy. Page's earliest dreams were to be a chef, to go straight to culinary school after high school and open a restaurant that catered to people with specific dietary needs because of diabetes, hypertension or other conditions. As she explored this more, she decided she wanted to pursue nutrition and dietetics in college. She filled out applications to multiple schools, but when she and her mom looked at all the applications, it became clear they could only afford to apply to one school. Tuskegee's fee was the smallest, so that is where she applied. During a visit, her

mother was very upfront with the institution about their need for financial support. Page's father passed away when she was in the fifth grade, and through her high school years, her mom was unemployed. The family relied on food banks at various points. Walter Hill, now-retired Tuskegee dean of the College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences, promised that if Page kept up her GPA, he'd ensure the portion of her tuition not covered by other scholarships and grants was taken care of.

After graduating from Tuskegee, Page set her sights on earning a doctoral degree, but that plan seemed derailed when she didn't get accepted into any master's programs to which she applied.

"I tell my students to keep pushing," Page said. "I tell them I didn't get into any graduate programs, and I say, 'Look, I'm still sitting here—the world didn't end like I thought it was at the time. Just because you have roadblocks and speed bumps that sometimes look like walls and dead ends, that is not where your story ends. Don't let anything keep you from your purpose.'"

Page kept pushing in the face of her disappointment and worked for her work-study professor, Dr. Eunice Bonsi, full time for the summer while she figured things out. She toured Auburn University's campus because the school had a program to bring more minority students into its graduate school, and they offered her a seat in the Ph.D. program.

"So, I started my Ph.D. at 22 with no master's degree, and everyone else in the program had already had a job before, had experience before, so I had to tailor my doctoral program to be competitive when I left there," Page said.

She met up with another student in the doctoral program, Brittannie Chester (MS, RDN, LD, CDCES) who had just been hired as the dietetics director at Tuskegee. Page partnered with Chester to teach undergraduate classes at Tuskegee.

"That's what made me think, 'I like teaching; I kind of like the classroom,'" Page said. "But part of me still enjoyed food. I still wanted to cook and bake and have that experience."

In addition to teaching, Page worked



Christopher Rice '22

Dr. Jamilah Page brings her culinary talents to the Child and Family Studies classroom, along with a story of encouragement for her students.

with Auburn's Cooperative Extension program, where she was able to teach in the community, make recipes, make recipe videos and do community demonstrations.

"Through all my prayers looking for a job, I just wanted to do a little of everything I love," Page reflected. "So, I was teaching a little bit, being in the community a little bit, but still having that part that was still true to me; and I love the kitchen—that's how I grew up."

Her prayers continued to be answered when she completed her Ph.D. in spring 2021 and applied for a position at Berea College. Her aunt, Min Hui Sessions '00, had attended Berea, so Page was no stranger to the College's mission. From the beginning of the interview process to her on-campus visit with the position offer, Page says she was enamored with the personable, whole-person welcome she received. She brought her mother with her, and at every meeting

she said each person had a packet and a seat for both her and her mother.

"That is absolutely something I would do," Page said. "For them to be excited to meet my mom and care about her, that's the vibe I want to be in. I was not just coming here; I was bringing all that my family has taught me, and my mother is my world. So, seeing them embrace her made me think, 'Why wouldn't I want to be here?' I felt that this was a place I could grow, and today I feel the growth."

Not only does Berea allow Page to be 100 percent herself all the time, she said, her personal story also allows her to connect with her students and encourage them through their difficulties.

"Just like with this school, we take a chance on those that don't have the opportunity to do certain things," Page said. "A lot of these students come from situations similar to mine, so I relate, and we were all given a chance to do

something different and figure out what we wanted to do and wanted to be. Now, I get to take time to invest in students like someone invested in me."

With her dreadlocks, nose ring and love of playing Jazz music while teaching about the digestive system, Page knows Berea has become her new home, though it's the first time she has lived outside of Alabama. She's found a family in her CFS colleagues and said she is learning how to expand how she teaches.

"I can dig into the sympathetic and people-person side of myself, and I don't have to separate myself like you see in other academic settings," Page said. "This place has given me confidence that I can come to work and be whole-heartedly me—I know what I need to do, but I'm allowed to be me in meetings and in the classroom. Now that I know I can be my full self, I will not decrease that." 📖



Dr. Jamilah Page supervises students in the Child and Family Studies program as they prepare a nutritious meal. Being in the kitchen with students is a part of her teaching job she loves the most.



Photo by Crystal Wylie '05

A SLOW HAND

by Jason Lee Miller

Whether making brooms or hiking through nature, Layne '24 likes to take it slow. There are a lot of little things in the woods to appreciate, and if you look closely at one of Layne's hand-crafted brooms, there are little things to appreciate there, too.

The braiding, for example, is the agriculture and natural resources major's specialty. He likes to slow down and focus there in particular.

"I like to put all my effort into it," he said, "just try to make something that I would appreciate putting on my mantelpiece."

Layne makes all the kinds of brooms Berea produces, including the small "cake tester" brooms, but he likes the process of decorative braiding the most. During a shift, he is given time and freedom to experiment.

"You can make whatever design you want," he noted. "If you can think it, you can do it. You can make one-of-a-kind brooms."

One of the brooms Layne is most proud of making has an American flag design. He comes from southwest Ohio, just off the Appalachian Highway, where he grew up hiking and making arrowheads with his dad. He loves the biodiversity and rolling hills of Kentucky, and Layne hopes to work for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources one day.

"I'm a simple, simple guy," he said. "I don't like the busy life. I like to slow down. I enjoy nature. I want to protect that. I want it to be there for my grandchildren, great grandchildren to enjoy like I enjoy it."

For Layne, broom-making is another activity that offers a break from the busyness of campus life and provides a chance to preserve tradition. He puts in his earbuds and listens to podcasts while he works. He especially likes podcasts about different areas of the U.S. and their conservation practices.

"It's not easy work, but once you get down what you're doing, it's pretty decent—you get a good routine. I really like to create something that I can look at and be proud of. I feel proud that I can be one of the people who carry on the tradition."

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From Berea, With Love

By Jason Lee Miller

One day, in 1983, a guidance counselor in southwest Virginia dusted off an old Berea College catalog from the 1970s and handed it to one of the school's seniors, who wanted to go to college but had no way to pay for it. The counselor told the young man Berea didn't charge tuition, and, right away, that senior knew Berea was the place for him.

"Berea was my only option," Charles Jackson '87 said, noting that his father, a coal miner, was disabled. "We didn't have any extra money. I wanted to go to college, but I thought it was out of the realm of possibility for me. We lived on very little."

Charles cut grass all summer to save money for his transition to college life, and he managed to amass \$175, which he carried with him to Berea. After his parents dropped him off, he explored campus, the Quad, and marveled at the architecture. The environment, he said, made him want to learn.

"I thought to myself, you know, this is what college looks like in the movies."

Charles was assigned to janitorial duties in Lincoln Hall, a job that would help cover what his summer savings did not, and he declared a major in history while entertaining thoughts of law school in the future. But, sometime later, there was a little bit of a snag. The teaching assistant (TA) in his history class seemed to have an affinity for the letter C.

Regina Abrams '85 was a tough grader. She was a local, and she was a bit of a prodigy, having graduated from high school at just 16. That put her two years ahead of Charles, though they were roughly the same age. The pair had a lot in common, both having spent the first halves of their childhood without indoor plumbing, both with parents who hadn't gone very far in school.

Regina, too, had admired campus

architecture from the distance of Chestnut Street, the main drag through town that her family drove daily. But she had never actually stepped foot onto campus until her high school English and Latin teacher took her to a play at Ross A. Jelkyl Drama Center, which happened to be entirely in Latin. It was just understood in Regina's family that this was where she was headed next.

"My mother knew the value of education," Regina said, "and she wanted more for me than she had for herself."

Her future seemed wide open. Regina loved English and civics, but after taking a history class in college, the subject "spoke to her heart," and that became her major. Choosing her as a TA, her history professor encouraged her to continue studying history in graduate school, but Regina had other plans. She wanted to be a lawyer.

Charles was forgiving of his difficult TA, and the two became good friends through their shared love of history. They played tennis together, and Charles would frequent Regina's mother's house nearby for visits. Regina studied abroad in Greece, graduated and went on to law school. Charles left his janitorial duties behind and landed a job with *The Pinnacle*, Berea's student newspaper, eventually working his way up to editor.

"I came with \$175, but I left a whole lot richer," he noted, meaning he was now rich in knowledge and experience. He had taken out a few small loans over the years to cover things like eyeglasses and a suit for his internship with Congressman Larry Hopkins in Lexington, and left school owing about \$2,000.

He moved back to Virginia, where his experience with the student newspaper and political internship helped him get a job as campaign manager for a local attorney who was running for Virginia's House of Delegates. They lost, but thanks

to that lawyer's advice, Charles took a job with State Farm in 1988, and he has worked there ever since.

One Thursday night in the 1990s his phone rang. Charles remembers because "Friends" was on television, and he wondered who in the world wasn't watching it also.

"Is this the Charles Jackson who went to Berea?" the voice on the other end asked, and he confirmed that he was. The voice belonged to Regina, who was reaching out to a long-lost college friend. She was in Bowling Green, working as a lawyer; he was in Louisville. Regina was returning his call, a call he had actually made months prior to her mother's house in Berea. Sometime around Thanksgiving, Regina's mother remembered to mention it.

They've been married now for 25 years. Charles is a business analyst at State Farm, and Regina is a partner with the law firm English, Lucas, Priest and Owsley. She represents school districts in central Kentucky. Looking back, the couple agrees their alma mater unlocked more than their love for one another.

"Berea completely changed my trajectory," Regina said. "It's hard to even quantify what that experience at Berea did for me. It opened opportunities, gave me a chance to explore the world. Berea allowed me to reach my potential."

"Because of Berea," Charles added, "the son of an illiterate, disabled coal miner was able to move beyond factors that would typically hold someone back. It's hard to express what a change-maker Berea was. I'm not sure where I would be today had I not been blessed with the Berea College experience. Berea provided the skills I needed to escape generational poverty while respecting those who came before me. I will never be able to say, 'thank you' to Berea adequately enough!" ■

Through Melissa's Eyes

By Melissa Ballard

Church and Community Shower Long Time Church Member with Flowers, Gifts and Felicitations.

—Berea Citizen newspaper;
June 29, 1944

Miss Melissa Ballard, 79, sits in the front row of First Baptist Church of Berea, Ky. Friends and extended family fill the seats on either side of her. A few weeks earlier, the church, of which she is a founding member, celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Miss Melissa is not used to being the center of attention. She is the planner, the worker, the one who sees that things get done. At least 17 people are expected to speak, and Miss Melissa can't imagine what all of them will have to say. She will, though, look forward to the choir music and to the five soloists. She settles in, back straight, and waits.

Mrs. Frost, the wife of one of Berea College's presidents, tells of Miss Ballard's patience and kindness during those trying six years when she stayed at their home. She tells of the cookies that Miss Melissa made and how the Frost boys were so fond of them that she

had a hard time keeping them hid.

—Berea Citizen newspaper;
June 29, 1944

Miss Melissa smooths the front of her new white dress and gently waves her paper fan. The church behind her feels full, and it seems like not a single bit of air is moving.

She remembers those Frost boys descending on her freshly baked, still-warm cookies. And she remembers staying at their home when she cooked, cleaned and kept an eye on the younger children. All her life, she has lived with family members. Those six years with the Frosts were the longest time she did not go home to family at night.

Miss Melissa has been cooking for as long as she can remember. In her large family, there was always the need for food, lots of it, and there was never enough money. Her Papa grew corn, so there was always meal for corn bread. Once in a long while, he would bring home flour, and Mother taught her how to make fluffy biscuits. Each child got two, and Melissa let each bite melt slowly on her tongue before taking more.

She closes her eyes and smiles at the thought of those biscuits.

When Miss Melissa started cooking for college professors and their families, their big kitchens and full pantries left her speechless. Before she worked for the Frosts, she had spent many years

cooking for Professor Le Vant Dodge's household. For much of that time, their niece lived with them. Miss Melissa never had children of her own, but she helped with the raising of her brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, and the children of the families she worked for. So many children over the years.

In the summer of 1910, Professor John Dinsmore and Mrs. Martha Dinsmore took her with them to a cottage on one of the Apostle Islands in Northern Wisconsin. She fished in the clearest water she had ever seen. The quiet was complete, and it reminded her of the apostle John, also a fisherman. She wondered whether he had experienced this peace and solitude when he was banished to the remote island of Patmos. While she was still in Wisconsin, she began to shape stories in her mind. She loved to tell her Sunday School pupils about the people in the Bible, and she liked to connect those stories to the present day.

Then there are congratulatory messages from Mr. Howard Willis who speaks on her "Early Christian Life" and Mrs. Grace Taylor who tells about her "Present Christian Activities."

—Berea Citizen newspaper;
June 29, 1944

Miss Melissa recrosses her ankles. She inhales the sweet scent of her gardenia corsage and pats her hair, which her niece, Myrtle, washed and styled for her on this special day.

She thinks of that meeting in the fall of 1894, when she, her sisters, Emily and Matilda, and three of her brothers joined 60-some other Berea folks with the idea of building a church closer to their homes.

The Negro Baptist families of Berea had been attending New Liberty, seven miles away. Each week, they walked there and home. In mild weather, they wrapped their shoes in paper and walked barefoot. When they caught sight of the church, they stopped to wipe the dust off their feet and put on their shoes before entering. Four years after that meeting, this very building was dedicated: First Baptist Church of Berea in Middletown. It was less than a mile for most folks to walk.

Miss Melissa nods her head each time the speakers mention one of the things she has done at this church. She served as treasurer for a time. She has always been good with money: keeping track of it, making the most of it and encouraging folks to donate for a good cause, no matter how small the amount.

She has taught Sunday school, led Bible study and Baptist Training Union meetings and arranged flowers for the altar. She often uses her own flowers, and she has won awards for her garden.

Always, it seems, she is

planning and cooking for basket dinners or other church programs. She remembers the homecoming her church held for the Negro World War I soldiers in October 1919. As always, there was food, so much food, which she organized, and a program of speeches and music. Her younger sister, Matilda, sang "They Ain't Going to Study War No More." More than 200 people attended.

Mrs. Maggie B. Wilson of Richmond brings a very fine message, a historical sketch of the Ballard family.

—Berea Citizen newspaper;
June 29, 1944

Melissa Ballard Honored At Special Service Cit. 6-29-44 Church and Community of Middletown Shower Long Time Church Member with Flowers, Gifts and Felicitations.

It isn't very often that a community pauses to give special recognition to a person who has lived in its midst for fifty or more years. But such an unusual event happened last Sunday afternoon when the Middletown Baptist Church and community held a special service in HONOR OF ONE of its respected citizens Miss Melissa Ballard, a charter member of that church and who has been a member there for fifty years.

The service of Sunday afternoon was well carried out in every detail and the speeches and songs were interesting and appropriate. Miss Ballard, dressed in a gown of white, had the seat of honor in front of the pulpit. On her right sat Mrs. Robert Blythe who had charge of the program. Next sat Mr. John Ballard and his wife and their daughter

Myrtle and the Reverend Mr. Cobb. On her left sat Miss Ellen Mitchell and The Reverend T. A. Bennet. The robed choir from Richmond was there to sing, and the Middletown choir and chorus also contributed special numbers. Solo numbers were given by Miss B. M. Willis, Mr. Alonzo Ballard, Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell and Mrs. Adelia Moran.

At least seventeen persons contributed congratulatory words in honor of Miss Ballard who must have felt a deep satisfaction as well as a thrill to hear all those kind and lovely words told about her. Representatives of the white race were Mrs. Eleanor Frost and Mr. Frederick Hall. Mrs. Frost who told of Miss Ballard's patience and kindness during those trying six years when she stayed at the home of President and Mrs. Frost. She told of the cookies that she made and how the Frost boys were so fond of them that Miss Melissa had a hard time keeping them hid.

A letter from Dr. Norman Frost brought congratulatory words to Miss Ballard for he remembered the good times he and his brothers had when Melissa worked at their house.

At the close of her message Mrs. Frost said something about the way to live. These are probably not her exact words but will give the fine sentiment expressed:

"So let me live all . . . joyful,
Content to live, content to die,
Rejoicing then, rejoicing now,
Rejoicing evermore."

Mr. Hall expressed two ideas about Melissa's life, saying that she was able to pull her own weight. She paid her debts and owed no man. Secondly she was able to make much out of little, for her resources were so small in comparison with those more fortunate.

Then there were congratulatory messages from Mr. Howard Willis who spoke on her "Early Christian Life," and Mrs. Grace Taylor who told her "Present Christian Activities." The Rev. T. A. Bennet pastor of the Baptist church and a close friend of the Ballard family, told of the influence of a good woman and particularly the good that Melissa has accomplished in her long years of service. Many congratulatory messages from all over the United States were read by Mrs. Lillian Cobb. These were both letters and telegrams from long-time friends. Mrs. Maggie B. Wilson of Richmond brought a very fine message, a historical sketch of the Ballard family. She told how the parents of Melissa were born in slavery and how they left their cruel master and came to Berea at the solicitation of John G. Fee who was in need of persons to help clear the land and build the buildings. The Ballard family volunteered to help in this work and for many years labored on the campus. She told how the house of the Ballard family came to be a "House by the side of the Road" where all were welcome. Then Mrs. Wilson gave a brief sketch of the children of Henry and Elsie Ballard and how Melissa in later years came to be the foster mother of many of her nieces and nephews.

As something extra on the program, Mrs. Ruth Hill departed from paying tribute to Melissa but said some very nice words about Myrtle Ballard, a niece of Melissa who is now in the service of the health department of Madison County. Myrtle, daughter of John Ballard graduated from the Dunbar high school and then went to Freemans Hospital in Washington and then, instead of following a career in a more prominent field, chose to come back to Berea to serve her own people. Mrs. Hill, in closing her remarks, told how proud the communities of Richmond and Berea are of her, and her noble work, for she is "an angel of mercy." Greetings were brought from the Middletown church by Mrs. Mary Farris, from the county churches by the Rev. J. W. Cobb, from the Middletown chorus by Mrs. Lena Ballew, from the choir by Ruth Rice, by the Bible Study group by Mrs. Fanny Kennedy.

From Hazard, Kentucky came Prof. Karl Walker, a former pupil of Melissa. From the Middletown schools came congratulatory words given by Prof. Robert Blythe.

At the close of the service Miss Liller Broadbuss read an original poem that went as follows:

We've gathered here on this Sabbath day

To honor one so fair and gay;
One who is loving, just and kind
One who in church you'll always find.

Miss Ballard, these words are meant for you;
They are words that thrill our hearts through and through
Yes, it's because of you we're here this day,
So make merry, be happy in every way.

Because you have silver threads among your gold
It doesn't mean you are growing old;
Your life is made happy from day to day,
Enjoy each moment while you may.

Life is the greatest gift of all mankind
Its a gift that's precious, its a gift that's fine.
You've lived a beautiful life,
And so, you can well be happy as onward you go.

You've put your trust in the hands of God;
He's watched the path of life you've trod;
You've been loyal to friends, in every way
You've done the work expected each day.

And this is why we honor you,
Because you've proven to be true blue;
And when your work on earth is ended

And you've done the best you can,
May the gates of Heaven open
And you enter life's eternal land.
Written by Liller Broadbuss



MISS MELISSA BALLARD whose many years of service to her church and community were made the occasion of a special recognition service at the Middletown Baptist Church.

Miss Melissa's parents remember her birthday as Oct. 8, 1864. Her first real memory, or maybe it's something she was told over and over again, is of her parents going to Camp Nelson to get their freedom papers at the end of the Civil War. They had been enslaved on different plantations, and Mother always said that when she and Papa got their freedom, they had nothing except each other and a bunch of children. There were 15 in all, some born after freedom, some already grown and out of the house, and one boy, Joseph, who died when he was just 8 months old.

After they got freedom, Papa and her older brothers got jobs working for Reverend John Fee, the founder of Berea College, putting up campus buildings. Papa made 75 cents a day, and Mother sometimes did wash for the college people for 50 cents a day. The Ballards were the first Negro family to buy land and build a home in Berea.

The Fees had settled in what was then called The Glade. It was mostly forest, farms and a few mud roads, but Reverend Fee had a vision for a community where both races would live together, and a school where both would learn together.

Miss Melissa hears Mrs. Nelson saying the Ballard place was a house by the side of the road, where everyone was welcome.

And that it was. Their small log cabin was already overflowing with family, but there was always room for someone passing through to stay the night or just share a meal. Sometimes, the men who were hired to work on the new college buildings boarded with the Ballards.

Her parents never let the children know about money worries, but Miss Melissa also recalls that she and her brothers and sisters didn't play outside much during the month of March. It was still cold, and the shoes they each got once a year were worn out by that time. Sometimes, though, they did venture out, and they made a game out of cracking the ice in the puddles with



Miss Melissa Ballard, ca. 1944

Berea College Special Collections and Archives

their bare feet. At night, after washing up, their feet would be sore and cracked, and Mother would dust them with soothing corn meal.

Then it was time for rest. Melissa and her two younger sisters slept in a trundle bed, two at the head, one at the foot. During the day it was pushed under a bigger bed, out of the way. Her brothers slept in the loft of the cabin.

Miss Wright from the College has asked Miss Melissa to write down her

memories of her childhood for a book about Berea in the early days. She has pencils and a ruled tablet, and she writes whatever comes into her head. She has filled 12 pages, more writing than she has done in a long time, and she is not done yet.

Just last night, she wrote about the rough, damp grape vines she pulled from the trees in the woods so she and her sisters could jump rope with them. She is starting to wonder if Miss Wright

will use all these memories. More than once, Miss Wright has asked, "Are you sure this is the way it happened?"

Miss Wright cannot know the way time folds in on her when she thinks of those days, when her family was together under one roof and free for the first time. Miss Melissa will never forget them, no matter how long she lives.

From Hazard, Kentucky comes Prof. Karl Walker, a former pupil of Melissa.

—Berea Citizen newspaper,
June 29, 1944

Miss Melissa is tired now but happy to see one of her best Sunday school students. Karl Walker attended the Kentucky Normal and Industrial Institute for Colored Persons in Frankfort, and now he is the principal at Liberty High School in Hazard.

Miss Melissa thinks of those early days of Berea College when Rev. Fee made sure there were classes for younger children, and those who had not been able to attend school before the Civil War. He insisted that Negro and white children learn side by side. At one point, the white parents refused and took their children home, but Reverend Fee said it was up to them. After a while, the white children came back, and everyone got along just fine.

Her parents had seen to it that all of their children, except the eldest, who

was already out and on his own, attended school. She will always remember the day in 1894 when her sister, Matilda, learned she had passed the exam for her teacher certification. Her name was in a list printed in the Richmond newspaper, and Miss Melissa cut it out and slipped it in her Bible.

In 1904, Kentucky passed the Day Law, making it illegal for both races to attend the same school. Senator Carl Day, who proposed the law, said it was for the purpose of "preventing the contamination of the white children of Kentucky."

The Berea College trustees chose to admit only whites and to assist the current Negro students with financial aid to go to other schools. Plans were made to open a college for Negro students near Berea, but that turned out to be more difficult than expected.

In the fall of 1911, Miss Melissa, her niece, Ada, and other promoters of the Lincoln Institute for Colored Youth took the early train 92 miles away to the farm where the institute was being built. After a picnic dinner, they spent nearly four hours touring the buildings that had been completed, and the others that were under construction, a total of nine in all. It was a long, hot day, but they all came back to Berea satisfied with the progress. They signed a letter to the newspaper saying so. The Institute opened 13 months later, eight years after the Day Law was passed. Now, 32 years later, it is still a fine school, but a college program has yet to be added.

At the close of the service Miss Broaddus reads an original poem.

—Berea Citizen newspaper,
June 29, 1944

The poem is lovely, but makes it sound like Miss Melissa has already passed, what with phrases like, "may the gates of Heaven open."

When the service ends, Miss Melissa gets up more slowly than usual; she has been sitting a long time, and she has never been one to sit much. As she turns around, she sees there are no empty seats, and folks are standing in the back. She is surrounded by kith and kin. Her heart is full.

Miss Melissa lived for five more years. Just a few days before her passing, she was preparing for a Kiwanis dinner at her church.

The next year, 1950, the Day Law was amended and, for the first time in 46 years, Black students were once again admitted to Berea College. Miss Melissa's great-niece, Miss Mary Elizabeth Ballard, was one of those students.

Miss Melissa Ballard's handwritten memories of early Berea remain in the College archives, unpublished. ■



Mary Elizabeth Ballard, ca. 1950

FINDING MISS MELISSA

After submitting an essay to the *Appalachian Review*, Berea's literary magazine, author Melissa Ballard was compelled to learn more about Berea. She stumbled across her name in a website description, thinking it was a link to her essay. Instead, she learned about Miss Melissa Ballard, born in 1864, and immediately got the sense she was an important woman in her community. With nothing to connect the two except sharing a name and being from Appalachia, Ballard set out to learn more about Miss Melissa Ballard of Berea, Ky., and to write about her.

Researchers in Berea's Special Collections and Archives assisted the author. Many coincidences kept her motivated as she continued her research: Miss Melissa's father's first name was Henry; that was the last name of Ballard's father. In the 1910 census, Miss Melissa was living with her sister, Emily, who had a daughter, Ada. Ballard has a daughter named Emily, and Emily has a daughter named Adah.

After a year of research and transcribing pages of Miss Melissa's hand-written memories, while silently meditating, Ballard says she heard the words, "Just tell my story; I've already started it for you." Ballard tried writing Miss Melissa's story in several ways before deciding to follow the order of service for the 1944 Special Service honoring Miss Melissa. She imagined, based on her research, the thoughts and memories Miss Melissa might have had during the service. Throughout the process, Ballard said she felt guided and "nudged to write," and she tried to listen, trust and honor everything she was given.

Special thanks to Sharyn Mitchell, research services specialist, and Elizabeth Ballard Denney.

It Takes Two

By Cora Allison '22

Alexis '23 and Diana '23 had not banked on attending college. While they both took school seriously, higher education didn't seem like a financially feasible option for either of their families until they found out about Berea.



Alexis grew up in Oak Cliff, Texas, in a single-parent household with his mom and two younger brothers. He often stayed home with his siblings while his mom consistently worked at least two jobs to accommodate their needs, first as a secretary for a medical clinic and, more recently, as a liver transplant coordinator.

“She made a lot of sacrifices for us, and always prioritized giving us the best academic options,” Alexis said.

During Alexis’ elementary and middle school years, he attended private Catholic schools geared toward lower-income students. Following the trend of his primary education, Alexis and his mom found a high school that would continue to make private education affordable.

Cristo Rey Dallas is a Catholic, college-prep high school that implements a work-study program for all students, enabling them to pay their tuition. Similar to Berea, Cristo Rey Dallas, a part of the Cristo Rey national network of schools, provides opportunities for students to build their resume and experiment with potential career options.

“I was able to work for two architecture and infrastructure-solution firms, Corgan and HNTB,” Alexis said. “It definitely influenced my current major in business management.”

Cristo Rey Dallas provided a rendezvous of sorts for both Alexis and Diana, who would later attend Berea together. Diana grew up in Pleasant Grove, Texas, across town from Alexis’s childhood neighborhood.

Diana helped translate for her Spanish-speaking parents and took on a lot of adult responsibilities to help out her family of six. “I tend to help with things like taxes, mail, messages, and job-related emails,” she said.

Cristo Rey Dallas was Diana’s first glimpse at private education, as the work-study program allowed for more financial flexibility. She and Alexis both enrolled as first-year students and the first official class of Cristo Rey Dallas, where Diana gained job experience in a law firm.

“While I’m not going to school for law, I really value having professional development at that age,” Diana said.

Alexis caught wind of Berea through his school. The College invited 30-some schools from the area to come visit, and Alexis, as class vice-president at the time, was chosen to attend.

“It didn’t seem real,” he said. “I kept waiting for there to be some kind of catch. It was an all-expenses-paid visit, and when I learned about the tuition promise, I knew I’d found my dream school.”

Upon Alexis’s return, he told Diana about Berea and the resources it offered low-income students. “When he was explaining it to me, it wasn’t hard for me to understand because it was so close to the way our high school was modeled,”

Diana said.

Both students were supported by their families to pursue education, but neither of their families had the means. They would be the first ones to go to college.

“My mom really wanted to help, and she cried when she realized she couldn’t,” Alexis said. “I told her not to worry, that I would figure something out.”

After learning about Berea, Alexis sought advice from the father figures in his life, his uncle and grandfather. He didn’t want to leave his mom for something of which he was unsure.

“I explained what Berea was like and the opportunity that was offered, and they told me I had to go,” Alexis

recalled. “It seemed like a once-in-a-lifetime thing.”

Likewise, Diana was hesitant about the concept of Berea. “Not only had no one in my family been to college, but I had never thought of leaving Texas for school.” After a lot of deliberation, her parents were pleased and supportive that she could receive a private college education even if it was out of state.

The pair are now in their third year at Berea. Diana is studying health and human performance and working in the Seabury gym on campus. She runs track and cross country and has been a competitive asset to both teams. Alexis is majoring in business management and is currently working as a resident advisor and playing for the College soccer team.

“I think we both had a sense of community upon arrival at the College because we were involved with the sports teams,” Alexis said.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic hasn’t allowed for the most traditional of college experiences, Alexis and Diana are happy to be back on campus and attending in-person classes.

“Berea is enabling us all to get a degree we otherwise couldn’t afford,” Alexis said. “Overall, I know I made the right choice to come.” ■



I’m a

Philanthropist

“It is very easy to make friends here. I like the idea that we all can do something about each other’s financial hardships even without realizing it. The \$5 I contribute every month becomes a part of a larger support system.” –Hailey ’24

Photo by Gaston Jarju ’23



“**Money can also bring people together,**” said Hailey ’24, who thought this might be a peculiar opinion. She believes the Berea Patrons program, which allows students to give back to their alma mater a small portion of their labor earnings, is a space that transcends class divisions. Students contribute whatever they can, and everyone can feel like they are contributing to something larger than themselves.

“**I am a business major, and one of the reasons I chose that path is due to my experience organizing fundraisers in high school,**” Hailey said. She believes her insider’s understanding of how these collective efforts work enables her to make personal contributions without hesitation.

Originally from Eminence, Ky., a small town 90 minutes away from Berea, Hailey cherishes the community spirit of her town and finds the similar environment at Berea College comforting and reassuring.

“**It is very easy to make friends here,**” Hailey said. “**I like the idea that we all can do something about each other’s financial hardships even without realizing it. The \$5 I contribute every month becomes a part of a larger support system.**”

As a future businesswoman, Hailey has always been interested in financial planning and administration. She is convinced that even small sums of money could go a long way to help people.

The Man from Sharkey

By Jason Lee Miller

Dr. Jarrod Brown '04, assistant professor of philosophy, was 8 when his favorite hunting dog, a beagle named Bingosh, died having puppies.

"I was pretty distraught," he said. "I climbed up on top of the chicken house to wonder why my little dog died."

Death and the pain of childbirth, he remembered from his Old Regular Baptist upbringing, were punishments handed down from the original sin of Adam and Eve. But as he thought about it, he became dissatisfied with the answer.

"My little dog had never done anything to anybody, so it didn't make sense that it should be punished," Brown said. "I think that created the first seed of doubt in my mind."

It all went down in a little place called Sharkey, Ky., a tobacco-growing community halfway between Lexington and Ashland, on the western edge of Central Appalachia. Brown hopped down from the chicken house and went inside to his mother, who was washing dishes.

"Mom," he prodded, "is Jesus like Santa Claus?"

The future philosopher was full of questions like that, and his mother put down her wash rag to say only that it was something he would have to answer for himself and not to mention it in front of his grandparents.

His dad worked construction, and on the weekends the two of them would build fences, but in his free time, Brown was reading. He still has his copy of "The Teachings of the Compassionate Buddha," edited by E. A. Burtt, that he

bought for 35 cents at a thrift store when he was 12.

"It was the first time I realized there were other attempts to answer the perennial questions of human existence, like the meaning of life, what is wrong and right, what is the nature of humanity and its relationship to the universe," Brown said. "[I read] anything I could get my hands on at the Rowan County Public Library."

Later, in high school, an art teacher who was a Berea College alumnus took note of Brown's inquisitive nature, his financial status and his potential and thought Berea would be a good fit. The teacher took him to campus for a convocation where Tibetan monks were creating a mandala.

"That was just incredible for me," Brown said. "I had been reading about these sorts of things most of my life, and it was the first time I was able to speak to people and hear people talk about these ideas that I had just been reading about."

From that moment on, Brown knew Berea was the place for him. That dream of college, though, became imperiled as his questioning mind ran afoul of the local authorities. When the school administration brought in dogs to sniff out contraband among student belongings, Brown, sure of his rights and the doctrine of probable cause, led a walkout in protest. His conflict with the administration ultimately led him to drop out of high school during his senior year.

But before he did, Brown called the Berea College Admissions office to let them know his plans. He had great test scores and planned to get his GED.



Brown was informed that to be admitted early, he would need to get letters of recommendation from the very administration he'd walked out on. Both the principal and the superintendent refused.

Without the letters, Brown was going to have to wait until the next admissions cycle to be reconsidered. In the meantime, he arranged lodging at a farmhouse in a neighboring county, where he could stay for free if he fed the cattle and looked after the land. Nearby was a sawmill, which provided him some income. For six months, he fed the cows, worked at the sawmill and read existential philosophy as he awaited news from Berea.

And news finally came. "I guess [associate director of Admissions] Chuck Morgan saw something," he said. "I try to get together with him about once every semester because I've told him a whole lot of my life is owed to him taking a risk on me."

Because of his experience at the sawmill, Brown was assigned to woodcraft for his labor position. He progressed from sanding items to crafting small stools to making the popular skittles game. Naturally, he majored in philosophy, a path his parents were skeptical of, but Brown allayed their concerns with thoughts of law school, though it was a path that never would materialize.

This path opened up other opportunities. Aside from a trip to Washington, D.C., when he was 16, Berea was as far away from Sharkey as Brown had ever been. Berea, though, had a study abroad program that allowed him to study in Malaysia. While there, he moved to a diverse area of the country where Buddhist and Hindu temples shared a street with a mosque.

"I spent a lot of time at the Buddhist and Hindu temples, made lots of friends, lots of connections, joined a Buddhist study group at the university," he related. "It was a time where I was getting lots of exposure into these things that I felt like I had been pursuing and studying my entire life."

This short stint in Malaysia only inflamed the young man's wanderlust. He traveled back and forth from Berea to Asia, once through an internship with the World Affairs Council of Cincinnati, and another time to backpack through Southeast Asia. One summer, Brown studied puppetry in rural Japan.

He finished his degree, and his parents were happy when he secured a full-time position at Berea College as a program assistant in the Center for Learning, Teaching, Communication and Research (now the Center for Teaching and Learning). They thought he would settle down and buy a home,

but Brown looked out into the wide world and realized he'd still never been to the birthplace of much of the philosophy he'd been studying.

"I said [to my parents], 'I just bought a one-way ticket to India, and the job that I got

pays \$480 a month. I will be back home after I have saved enough money to buy a return ticket.'"


He wouldn't return to America for three years. The job at an Indian call center led to a better opportunity. Thanks to Brown's background in education, he caught the attention of Krishnan Ganesh, who had made his fortune in Indian call centers. Ganesh was starting a new company called TutorVista, and he wanted Brown to serve as the academic director. The venture had big names attached to it, names associated with Amazon and McAfee. By 2012, the company had

grown to 800 employees and a roster of 2,000 tutors. It was acquired by Pearson, owner of the *Financial Times* and book publisher Penguin Books, in 2013, when Brown received his "golden parachute."

By 2016, when he joined the Berea College faculty, Brown had accomplished much, and one can read about all of it in his online biography at www.berea.edu/phi/faculty-and-staff/jarrold-brown. The short version is that while he was an internet executive, he went back to school at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and earned his master's degree in philosophy and Ph.D. in comparative philosophy. When news that he had received the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke graduate scholarship reached his high school superintendent, she wrote him a letter saying, "I always knew you would do great things but worried what they would be."

Among those great things, according to Brown, was coming home to Berea. "I had always hoped to land back in Berea," he said. "Berea is the only place that I've ever really felt at home. It's the community. It's the campus. It's the people. It's the students. You make a lot more money as an internet executive than you do as an assistant professor at Berea College, but there's something really deeply rewarding about what I do, and I'm really thankful to be able to do it."

For the past four years, Brown's research has been funded by NASA. The lone philosopher on a team of scientists is studying how Buddhism and culture affect land use in Vietnam. The goal is to provide a culturally appropriate response to climate change in that country.

"One of the ideas I imbibed at Berea was that you go out in the world, you find out all you can and you have all these experiences, and then you bring them back home, and you share them with other people," Brown said. "You illustrate that you can come from Sharkey and traipse all over the world." 

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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.

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The Chance to Dream

By Bobi Conn '02



As a senior in high school, I didn't have a plan for going to college. None of my family members had gone, and it wasn't something we discussed. I had no idea how to apply and did not even know how to think about the impact it would have on my future. I was on a more predictable path, given my background: I had gotten married the previous summer and was working at a fast-food restaurant while finishing high school.

I was a straight-A student, but I was also angry and lost, still reeling from a difficult childhood and a series of traumatic events that followed me into my teen years. Married at 17 and without any adults to set limits for me at home, I rebelled quietly, skipping a lot of school while also doing the work to make good grades. I argued with teachers about whether or not I should be able to do both of these things—miss so much school but still make good grades—and sometimes I argued that my poor attendance shouldn't count against me when I could learn and understand the course work anyway.

I didn't understand it at the time, but those debates with my teachers gave me a safe outlet to be defiant. As someone who couldn't defend herself as a child, I was still resentful and suspicious of adults, and I tested boundaries when I found them. In the context of school, I was surrounded by adults who cared about my well-being and who tried to guide me in a healthy direction. Some of them knew I was struggling, even though I couldn't articulate that myself. I was lucky so many of my teachers responded to me with kindness rather than exasperation, which is what I often feel when I think back to my 17-year-old self.

One of those teachers was Steve Thompson '92, who taught art and tolerated a lot of my difficult behavior with unusual grace. Not long before I took the ACT, he pulled me aside and encouraged me to consider going to Berea College. On the day of the test, I wrote Berea's code on the form so the school would receive my test results,

even though I didn't know whether I would go to college or not. Several months later, I got a phone call from the College admissions office, offering me one of the six spots they had left.

I had already decided to move to Berea after attending the Earth Roots Festival, which was largely organized by students who would soon become my friends. Now, I would also be going to college—something that had seemed so abstract. At the festival and then on campus, I felt more free to be myself than I ever had before. I formed a wide social network, and even though I still struggled in some ways, I flourished in my classes.

During my first year, I took philosophy courses as electives and found myself in the perfect position to debate ideas rather than my attendance (or lack thereof). I also quickly discovered I would have to attend classes and follow the rules to do well at Berea College, and several professors were generous enough to explain this without penalizing me for some early missteps. Once again, I benefitted from a host of educators who challenged my intellect while nurturing me as a student. I had a lot of personal growing and healing left to do, but I savored the classroom experience.

I graduated from Berea with a bachelor's degree in philosophy, but it would take more time for me to fully find my way. Like many people from dysfunctional homes, I struggled to create stability in my life, even as an adult. However, unlike most people from dysfunctional homes, I entered into my young adulthood with a prestigious college degree and no debt. So, a few years later, when I realized I wanted to be a writer, I was poised to attend graduate school and begin that journey.

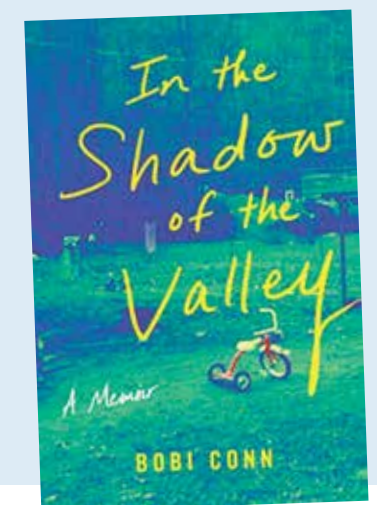
Looking back now, I'm amazed at what a chance happening it was that I attended Berea College. If it were not for Mr. Thompson, I wouldn't have known about the school, and I'm not sure I would have gone to any college. Even if I had opted to attend the local university where I grew up, Berea provided me the

exact kind of environment I needed to succeed, and I wouldn't have gotten that elsewhere. Just a few years after graduating, I got my master's degree in English and launched both my professional and creative careers.

When I went to Berea College, I wasn't prepared to take care of myself or make good decisions, even though I had been pretending to be an adult. Both the institution and a large number of professors—some of whom are my friends now—helped create a foundation for the rest of my life, which smoothed the path once I began to find my way. Because of Berea College and the many people who dedicate themselves to its mission, I am able to give my children not just a better life, but a life unlike anything I once could have imagined. I am able to give back to and help enrich our beloved Appalachia through my stories. Perhaps most importantly, I was empowered with a vision of who I could become, and then given the chance to achieve that dream. **B**

DIVE DEEPER

Bobi Conn's memoir, *"In the Shadow of the Valley,"* is an elegiac account of survival despite being born poor, female and cloistered. Conn grew up in a remote Kentucky holler in the 1980s and 1990s, where she endured the violence of her alcoholic father by finding solace in the natural beauty that surrounded her hellish childhood home. Conn's testament is one of hope for all vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls caught in the cycle of poverty and abuse. On a continual path to worth, autonomy and reinvention, Conn proves "the storyteller is the one with power." Find it at <https://amzn.to/3lVpd95>.



A 55-Year Legacy

By Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03

In a simple but beautiful wooden box, hand-carved by students in Berea's Woodcraft program, sit the stubs of checks made out to the College 55 years ago. This expertly crafted box occupies a place of honor in Bill Heffner's Columbus, Ohio, office—a constant reminder of his father's generosity and admiration for hard work.

"I don't really know how my father learned about Berea College; I can only guess how he did," explained Heffner, CEO of Agg Rok Materials—a

position held by his great grandfather, grandfather and father before him.

Heffner assumes his father was talking about work ethic with friends in the construction industry, when one of them perhaps mentioned a neat little college in Kentucky where students had to work while receiving a tuition-free education.

"I know that would spark my father's interest because I'm truly my father's son," Heffner said. "So, he started giving them money, and the first check he wrote was for \$250. I still have the stub for that check and the check number. That would be equal to \$2,000 today. The

next year he gave \$300."

In 1967, the Heffner Family Foundation was just two years old and only giving to four organizations, Berea College being one of them. Today, the

Many times I say, 'What would my dad do?' He'd say, 'You are fine as long as you are helping people.' I want to help people. — Bill Heffner

foundation supports more than 40 organizations, and Berea is the only one of the original four to which the Heffner family still contributes. Berea's commitment to its students and expectation of work well done continue to resonate with Bill like it did for his father.

"Our company is 121 years old—we started in 1900," Heffner said. "It is only because of work ethic and never saying 'I can't accomplish something' that we are where we are today. My great grandfather, my grandfather, my father never went to college and were very successful. I'm the first one that ever went to college. So, I know that system works. I

Our company is 121 years old....It is only because of work ethic and never saying 'I can't accomplish something' that we are where we are today....I think Berea does a better job than most instilling a lot of things we believe that got us 121 years in business.

— Bill Heffner

ship endowment to support the College's internship program. "We realized that Berea had a ready-made system, so I told Chris [Schill, Berea senior philanthropy officer] to get me the paperwork, and I'll

fund it," he said.

Though Heffner's father had visited Berea and stayed at the Boone Tavern Hotel and Restaurant, Heffner made all his contributions without stepping foot

on Berea's campus himself. So, in October 2021, he agreed to visit the campus, where he was given his keepsake hand-carved box and the opportunity to see his financial support in action. He talked with students and business professors and learned that the need was great, but so were the students.

"These students are eager to do things, and I'm hopeful that with great leadership from [associate professor of management] Dr. Maurice Reid, they will have some great opportunities," Heffner said.

"Hopefully it will give them a better opportunity to be successful," Heffner continued. "And I hope Berea College can keep up its tradition and give these students a better opportunity. They are coming from poor families with very tough conditions—I know because I've spoken to some of them—and I hope it makes a difference."

For Heffner, continuing his father's 55-year legacy of giving to Berea helps him stay connected to his father's heart. "Many times I say, 'What would my dad do?'" Heffner said. "The thing I can say, knowing my dad very well, he'd say, 'You are fine if you are helping people.' I want to help people." **B**



Bill Heffner



During his first visit to the College in October 2021, Bill Heffner was presented with this wooden box, handcrafted by Berea woodcraft students to hold the check stubs of his father's first gifts to Berea in 1967. The proclamation was also presented to Heffner by a Berea College student who has benefited from the Heffner family's internship endowment.

Connecting through Craft

By Jason Lee Miller

It was the first week of March 2020, and the world was still right-side up. Thousands of people made their way through the Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH), many of them in search of Dorothy's ruby slippers or Lincoln's top hat. What they found on the first floor's Places of Invention wing of the Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Hall of Invention and Innovation was something different: a small troupe of Berea College students making brooms and weaving.

Until the pandemic, each year since Steve Davis-Rosenbaum assumed leadership of Berea's Craft Education and Outreach Program (CEOP), students have taken spring break trips to demonstrate their skills. This year, they brought two vans, one for the nine students traveling to D.C., and another for their equipment, which included two traveling looms, one of which dates back to the 1930s.



They also brought a full broom-making set-up to celebrate a century of broom-making, 1920–2020. They invited museum visitors to make their own brooms, or to buy one, which people happily did.

“The staff at the NMAH were impressed with the professionalism, knowledge and skills of our students,” Davis-Rosenbaum said. “The visitors at the museum had a unique experience learning to make craft and about the rich history of Berea College.”

This was their first appearance at the Smithsonian, an event that capped off a weeklong sightseeing tour of the diverse crafts and arts of many different cultures. To organize the event, Davis-Rosenbaum reached out to Christopher Wilson, NMAH’s director of experience design, who specializes in living history, or performance-based programs, an approach he brought with him from the Henry Ford Museum in Michigan.

“We try,” Wilson said, “for all our programs to be a kind of bridge between people and U.S. history, to bring people together—people who don’t know one another—and use history to get them



Craft Education and Outreach Coordinator Steve Davis-Rosenbaum works with students Jada Jones '19 and Delilah Gibbons '20 at the Berea College Visitor Center & Shoppe.

talking with one another and understanding one another more. We do that through a variety of activities, like theater programs, but also with hands-on activities.”

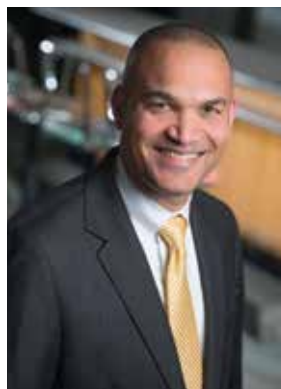
When Davis-Rosenbaum contacted Wilson about students doing a demonstration at the Smithsonian, Wilson was quick to understand its value. The spring break 2020 visit would be a pilot program, a precursor to developing summer internships for Berea students, though the pandemic has postponed that step.

“We had great feedback,” Wilson said. “It’s fascinating when you see a real expert at work. One of the keys is being able to demonstrate that expertise in a way that comes through to the audience. I think that was fascinating for people how some of these crafts were performed in the past and what they meant. The products they were producing were just beautiful.”

The two-day demonstration of traditional Appalachian crafts made an appearance to an estimated 24,000

visitors, many of whom had their own stories of visiting Berea College or a family connection to the history. One of those people with a special connection was Wilson himself. Though he hails from Michigan originally, his mother’s family has roots in Kentucky, and his great great great grandparents lived in Berea.

Though the family lore is a little shaky regarding things so far in the past, Wilson’s account and Richard D. Sears’ book “A Utopian Experiment in Kentucky” reveal that Wilson’s ancestors, Reverend Anderson Crawford, his wife Caroline and their 15 children lived on Center Street, which, in its original formation housed Black and white families on alternating plots. Reverend John G. Fee, Berea College founder, had recruited Reverend Crawford from nearby Camp Nelson as part of his mission to bring more Black preachers to Berea. His mission from the Freed-



Christopher Wilson

man’s Aid Society of Cincinnati was to seek out half a dozen preachers, but Civil War veteran Crawford was the only one Fee was able to recruit. Between children and grandchildren, Anderson and Caroline’s progeny attended school in Berea from the earliest days until the Day Law segregated schools in Kentucky in 1904.

Stories of connection like Wilson’s to Berea are what these live demonstrations are all about.

“The Smithsonian is in a position, as a trusted institution in our country,” Wilson said, “to break down the bubbles in which people live. If we can get people to talk with one another, engage with one another and understand and respect one another’s backgrounds, then we can make a more just and compassionate world. I think this program was a really good example of how that can happen, using a partnership between the museum and the College.”

In collaboration with the Berea College Office of Internships and Career Development, Davis-Rosenbaum and Wilson had set up two internships in



Berea College students and staff representatives of the Craft Education and Outreach Program make a sightseeing stop by the Washington Monument during their craft demonstration trip to the Smithsonian in March 2020. Pictured from left to right: Zyshavia Garrett '22, Allison Dallman '20, Shaylee '23, Idalia Flores Martinez '22, Susan Buckmaster, director of business development and guest relations, Nathan Pritt '20, Rebecca Sizemore '19, Eliza Lavin '21, Steve Davis-Rosenbaum and Amber Williamson '20.

2020 at the NMAH to continue craft outreach and education there, but this effort had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Davis-Rosenbaum

and the museum hope to work together to rekindle this effort and send the first Berea College interns to the Smithsonian in summer 2023. ■

THE POTTER’S TALE: STEVE DAVIS-ROSENBAUM

If you ask the right question, Steve Davis-Rosenbaum, head of Berea’s Craft Education and Outreach Program (CEOP), will note the presence of all 10 of his fingers.

That’s because in a previous professional life Davis-Rosenbaum taught language to chimpanzees at Yerkes National Primate Research Center in Atlanta, Ga., a job where keeping all your digits in tact was not a guarantee. In fact, says the San Francisco native, the risk to his appendages was a primary motivator for seeking a career change.

“As the chimps got bigger, working with them became more dangerous,” he said. “I had to decide to stay and go to graduate school or change careers.”

That transition, in the 1980s, led the former biology major to follow his passion for ceramics, which he’d had experience with in his undergraduate years at Lewis & Clark College as a way of balancing out the hard sciences. Even while working with chimps in Atlanta, Davis-Rosenbaum continued his pottery work by joining local pottery groups. He went back to school at the University of Georgia, earning his Master of Fine Arts degree in ceramics, and when he finished, he was hired by Berea College as the resident potter in 1986, a position he held for three years.

“That residency,” he said, “launched me from graduate school to becoming a really accomplished potter. It gave me the time to focus on my work and assist in managing the ceramics studio.”

Davis-Rosenbaum left Berea in 1989, and for the next 23 years, he ran a pottery business and taught art and ceramics, including a nearly two-decade stretch as associate professor at Midway College in Midway, Ky. His arc bent back to Berea in 2012, when he was

hired to direct the College’s newly created CEOP, a program focused on promoting the craft traditions of Appalachia in underserved schools and communities.

The CEOP works mainly in nearby Appalachian county schools, helping teachers integrate craft into their curriculum. The program brings traditional fibers for weaving, broomcorn, ceramics and some metals for use in the classroom. The community service program of Student Craft meets the College’s Eighth Great Commitment: to engage Appalachian communities, families and students in partnership for mutual learning, growth and service.

“We work collaboratively with teachers who want to integrate customized craft workshops into their curriculum,” Davis-Rosenbaum said. “CEOP provides resources and expertise to non-art teachers in different disciplines including Appalachian heritage, writing, science and humanities by providing hands-on experiences not accessible in schools. The most popular workshop is ceramics, as most schools do not have access to equipment and supplies needed. Ceramics projects include units on American Indian pottery, art history and the Appalachian tradition of making.”



ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:

Learn more about Steve Davis-Rosenbaum and Berea’s Craft Education and Outreach Program at <https://bit.ly/BereaCEOP>



Crafting a Family Legacy



Tyler Rocquemoire '22

By Kim Kobersmith

Siblings Deloris and Jeff Reed can't remember a time when Berea College wasn't a part of their lives.

Their father, Johnnie Reed, began working in Broomcraft in 1940, and their mother, Emma, soon followed. Their childhood memories are filled with Saturday mornings in the broom studio—the smell of the corn, the sound of the stitching machine, the rough feel of willow canes cut for handles. Even now, Deloris says the scent of home-made brooms reminds her of her parents.

Johnnie and Emma didn't set out to create a family legacy. They both spent their working lives at Berea and inspired three of their children to do the same. Together with Deloris, Jeff, and brother Lonnie, they have given more than 175 years of service to Berea.

The families of both Johnnie and Emma moved to Berea from Jackson County for work opportunities. Johnnie started as a rookie broom maker at Berea at the age of 17 in 1940. He moved up to supervisor in 1958, a role he filled until 1976 when health issues forced him to retire. That is when Emma picked up the supervisor baton, a role she filled for 23 years.

Johnnie's children remember one of his singular designs, the princess broom. It had red bristles and a hand-cut walnut handle. "He could make perfect measurements for the sawing and filing by using his eyeballs and hand for guidance," Jeff said.

In the summers, Johnnie and Emma would travel to North Carolina, Mammoth Cave and the Kentucky State Fair demonstrating broom making on behalf of Berea, starting a tradition of live demonstrations that continues today. (For more on live broom-making demonstrations, see Page 32).

The Reeds crafted an untold number of brooms. Deloris remembers that at her father's funeral, one of her friends made a unique bouquet that included a fan-tail broom purchased at an antique store. The arrangement was even more special to Deloris when she

looked at the broom closely and realized it had her father's signature twist of broom corn. It was one he had actually made!

The Reeds had an impact on generations of Berea students through the student labor program.

Deloris and Jeff estimate their parents supervised 30 students a year, working with more than 1,000 young people during their tenure. It was a labor of love, both given and received. The Reeds would have the students over for dinner; the students would keep in touch after graduation, sending letters and pictures and returning for campus visits with their families.

Watching their parents at work in such a close-up way instilled a strong work ethic in all of their eight children. "Dad would say, 'When you get a check, ask yourself if you worked hard enough for it,'" Deloris said. "They raised us to work hard."

Lonnie followed in his parents' footsteps. He began working in Broomcraft in 1968, then moved up to supervisor when his mother left in 1999. He retired from the College in 2010. Deloris and Jeff have both spent their careers at Berea but branched out from the family tradition of broom making. "Mom always said you have to love making brooms to do it," Deloris said. "I don't have the patience for it."

Jeff couldn't tolerate the rash he gets from broom corn. Instead, he's spent more than 45 years in Facilities Management. He began as an electrician, then worked his way up to team leader, project coordinator and now associate director. He is grateful for the way Berea supports its employees by offering classes



Johnnie and Emma Reed fashion brooms at a Berea College Labor Expo. Johnnie began working in Broomcraft in 1940, Emma soon followed. Three of their eight children followed them in paths at Berea College: Deloris, Jeff and Lonnie. Lonnie worked in Broomcraft for 42 years before retiring in 2010. Jeff and Deloris still enjoy their service to the College.

and training in trades like electrical, plumbing and HVAC.

"I have given my life to the College, but it has given me more," Jeff said. "It taught me the skills to build my own house and take care of my personal needs. When I started here at 19 years old, I didn't know any of that."

Even so, Jeff can't escape Broomcraft completely. Student Craft continues to use the broom stitcher his father bought decades ago, and he is the one they call when it needs repair.

Deloris has remained even closer to brooms, spending most of her 32-year career in Student Craft. She started in the shipping department and rose to assistant director. She recently moved to the Division of Alumni, Communications and Philanthropy.

"I miss the students," she said. "Some students are so fragile, and in four years we watch them grow and mature. It means so much to me."

She knows of at least one student who graduated and found a career using skills he first learned in Student Craft. He became an executive in shipping at Lowe's.

Jeff and Deloris believe a sense of ownership in the work they do is something handed down to them by their parents. "We can't leave here," Deloris said. "All of us feel honored to work where our parents left such a great legacy. It is a part of us." ■

Remembering their Roots

By Michele Pekola and Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03

While students at Berea College, Franklin '49 and Betty Parker '50 each found a treasured classmate, the love of a lifetime and the groundwork for great success.

It all started when Franklin and Betty were sitting together in class in September 1946. Coincidentally, Betty's maiden name is Parker, so as a student



she found Franklin often was her neighbor in class. According to Franklin, they soon started walking hand in hand and have been doing so ever since.

Franklin came to Berea after serving several years in the U.S. Air Force, so he was eight years older than Betty when they met. Franklin worked in the library, wrote for the campus alumni news publication and served as a teaching assistant. Betty visited Berea as a high school student singing with a choir group. She loved her time on campus and decided Berea was the place for her. Her home in northern Alabama was not in Berea's territory at the time, but she didn't accept no for an answer. While on campus, she went and spoke to then-President Francis Hutchins and pled her case—despite being out of territory, she was one of 10 children and had no other options to afford a college education. Her outgoing nature secured her a spot at Berea.

Betty recalls that one of her favorite memories as a student was the singing of "Berea Beloved" in Phelps Stokes Chapel. "Franklin was a few years older and had mature goals," Betty said. "He also has a beautiful speaking voice. I remember with what pride I heard him read Scripture during a Phelps Stokes service from the balcony."


"Berea is a second home for us," she added. "a place where we became adults and dreamed of travel and accomplishments."

Following their time at Berea College, the pair went on to travel domestically and internationally as they worked side by side. Franklin pursued his Ph.D. in history and philosophy education at George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. His dissertation focused

on George Peabody's life, philanthropies and the Peabody Education Fund's influence on later U.S. funds and foundations. Franklin and Betty traveled to various higher-education institutions to discuss the dissertation. He also authored numerous published pieces and Betty, who earned a master's degree at Peabody and served as an English instructor at both high school and post-secondary levels, edited his work. The couple donated published writings, books, compilations of writings and journals to Hutchins Library at Berea College. Franklin retired after 20 years at West Virginia University as Claude W. Benedum Professor of Education.

"Though Berea and the world around us have changed immensely," Betty reflected, "Berea is faithful to its founding values. It still serves those deserving an education and opportunities. We are proud to support Berea."

Today, Franklin and Betty are in assisted living, a part of Uplands Village, a continuing care retirement community in Tennessee. Franklin, at nearly 101 years old, swims almost daily and is quick to give a heel-clicking jump when he is excited about various activities or new visitors. He and Betty, now 92, take long walks together through the grounds, often still hand in hand like they did in college. After 27 years living in the Uplands Village community, Pleasant Hills mayor 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."

"Because of our roots at Berea, we had opportunities and experiences that fulfilled our fondest dreams," Betty said. "Berea made possible the satisfactions and the joys of our lives." 



At nearly 101 years old, Franklin Parker '49 still swims almost every morning at the indoor pool facility that is part of the Uplands Village retirement community they live at in Tennessee.



More Than a Bike Route: *Lessons in Entrepreneurship*

By Jodi Whitaker

When state and local officials gathered in Berea last November to celebrate the completion of a four-month project identifying Kentucky's new Daniel Boone Bike Route 21 (USBR 21), the project represented much more than a culmination of a state and local partnership. The USBR 21 project also represented 15 years of work by Dr. Peter Hackbert and Berea College's Entrepreneurship for the Public Good (EPG) program students.

"Entrepreneurship is about creating value," Dr. Hackbert said. "It's about recognizing the hidden gems—the small independent businesses in the tourism industry that provide authentic, unique services and amenities. These are the real valuable assets that are unique to Kentucky."

Five years into the program's 20-year history, Hackbert became director of EPG, which is just one program to support Berea College's Appalachian commitment.

"In the first summer, we learned about being respectful of Appalachian traditions, teamwork and social innovation with community partners for the region," Hackbert said.

And with that, from Day One, observation has been key.

"Entrepreneurs observe," Hackbert said. "We kept seeing these people ride through Berea on their bikes. We would talk to these people at Berea Coffee and Tea, and they reported to us about their long-distance cycling experience in eastern Kentucky. They said it was beautiful, friendly and safe. They said they experienced hospitality they could

not experience in Seattle, Chicago or Indianapolis.

"We kept seeing these people," Hackbert continued. "And because they told us about the beauty and the hospitality in eastern Kentucky, we moved our work to mapping cultural assets. We took culture, art and food and linked that into adventure tourism."

And doing this 15 years ago put EPG in the forefront of the adventure-tourism movement, Hackbert said.

"We were so far ahead," he said. "We identified it. But it's not about us identifying it; it's about whether the community knows. If the community doesn't embrace it, we are doing it to them. And EPG isn't about doing it to them. We are doing it *with them*. If the community doesn't know, they don't know how to benefit."

Each EPG class—called a cohort—builds on the work done by previous cohorts. Each summer, previous cohort students have an opportunity to come back and share their experiences with the new class, allowing the learning experience to continue even after a student completes the program.

There are no other programs that integrate entrepreneurship and Appalachian issues in the southern region," Hackbert said. "I'm a social entrepreneur. We make things up. There are other trail systems that have created economic benefit for the state, county and city. But nobody is doing it quite like we are in that it's student driven. The students must learn entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial leadership. They have to walk out with

a stronger skill set and knowledge set than when they entered.

Ani '22, a fifth-year senior with a double major in business and Spanish who was a member of cohort 17, said she developed both personally and professionally from the EPG program.

"I knew very little about entrepreneurship before doing EPG," Ani said. "Now, I have the skills, tools and mindset to be an entrepreneur. Now, I'm thinking I am going to become an entrepreneur. But even without becoming an entrepreneur, applying the entrepreneurial mindset to everyday situations will be useful."

Ani said learning about the entrepreneurial mindset was "something." Included in that mindset is the idea of creating a personal board of directors—a group of individuals students can rely on to act as a sounding board for professional development.

"I learned about brainstorming ideas and being confident in your ideas," Ani said. "I learned about identifying a personal board of directors in your life to help make your ideas come true—to help you realize your ideas. I had no idea you could do that, but EPG taught me."

Additionally, Ani said she learned about "being comfortable with ambiguity and making the most out of it."

Ani says she has a passion for learning foreign languages—she's on her third language now. She is thinking of opening her own language school, perhaps in her home country of Armenia, in the future.

In the meantime, Ani hopes to use the skills she has learned to help her



Berea College President Lyle Roelofs (second from left) joined state and local officials last fall to designate U.S. Bike Route 21. The project represented 15 years of work by Dr. Peter Hackbert and Berea College's Entrepreneurship for the Public Good program.

father grow his existing business in Armenia.

"EPG focused on Appalachia and how entrepreneurial actions would affect Appalachia," she said. "My home country is similar to Appalachia in terms of socioeconomics."

Julia '23, a Lexington, Ky., native who is a double major in music and business administration with a concentration in accounting, was also a member of cohort 17—the first cohort impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Cohort 17 and 18 were completed remotely, with students meeting via Zoom and conducting interviews virtually as well. Cohort 17 made the experience their own, Julia said, and continued their important work.

"My group project was focused on looking at the economic impact of different industries, and we did it looking at ATV (all-terrain vehicle) trails," Julia said. "We focused on how these trails made their communities profitable. We found four business sectors—food, gas, entertainment and lodging. And we looked at how to implement a trail here in Kentucky."

The next cohort took that information and applied it to what would become USBR 21.

"Biking is a pretty accessible activity," Julia said. "Having a bike isn't a

terribly crazy ask. A lot of people growing up have bikes—it's not terribly expensive to get a bike. And a bike route isn't something you can only bike on. It's something you can walk or run on and enjoy other ways."

Roshan '22, a student from Nepal majoring in business with a concentration in marketing and finance, was a member of cohort 16 in 2019. He came into the program with the goal of being an entrepreneur and joined the program to help him reach that goal.

"A lot of the work we did was the marketing side of the bike route," Roshan said. "The main purpose of the bike route was to bring people into these small towns and make sure they spend money in local businesses, so revenue is generated and the economy grows. We looked at the populations, small businesses and what they are doing to draw in bicyclists. By the end of that summer (2019), the state officially recognized the bike route as a national bike route."

"When your town is in a state of economic crisis, there's very little they can do," Roshan said. "Using adventure tourism to bring people in is very interesting."

Roshan also wants to eventually start his own business, and he said the skills he learned working on the bike route through EPG will definitely help.

"Dealing with ambiguity and uncertainty, and having a board of directors in your life—those were two of the main lessons I learned in the program," he said.

When he began as director of EPG, Hackbert said he had no idea the group would end up with a national bike trail. But again, that is part of the process of entrepreneurship, he said.

This summer, cohort 19 will again meet in person, studying entrepreneurial ecosystems in four communities: Chattanooga, Tenn.; Berea, Morehead and Hazard, all in Kentucky.

"Entrepreneurs have a vision, and they move into the vision," Hackbert said. "Working with ambiguity and uncertainty is one of the skillsets students learn. They walk out with a different mindset. It's about getting it done. It's about starting with the end in mind. It's about being effective in their communication, teamwork and building trust and respect. Those behaviors have been recognized by the faculty and administration at this College. That's why EPG is so respected." ■

Berea College Mourns the Death of bell hooks

Berea College is deeply saddened about the death of bell hooks, distinguished professor in residence in Appalachian Studies, prodigious author, public intellectual and one of the country's foremost feminist scholars. She died at her home in Berea after an extended illness.

Born Gloria Jean Watkins in Hopkinsville, Ky., on Sept. 25, 1952, she adopted the pen name "bell hooks" from her maternal great-grandmother, Bell Blair Hooks.

bell came into the life of many Bereans in 2004 to help the College get closer to its Great Commitments, particularly the Fifth Great Commitment focused on the kinship of all people and interracial education; the Sixth Great Commitment dedicated to gender equality; and the Eighth Great Commitment centered on service to Appalachia.

Berea College is grateful for her contributions to the campus community and will celebrate her life and legacy through the bell hooks center that opened on campus in fall

2021. The bell hooks Institute at Berea College will continue to be a valuable and informative beacon to her life's work, continuing to remind humans that life is all about love. In her words, "To love well is the task in all meaningful relationships, not just romantic bonds."



Two Students Earn Watson Fellowship

Berea College students Maria Alejandra '22 and Hunter '22 have been named Thomas J. Watson Fellows.

The 54th Class of Watson Fellows was selected from 41 private colleges and university partners across the United States. This year, 42 students were selected from a national pool of finalists in an extremely competitive process.

Each Watson Fellow receives \$36,000 for 12 months of travel and college loan assistance as needed.

During her Watson year, Maria will explore "Plants as an Element of Cultural Identity" in Tanzania, Egypt, India, Indonesia and Colombia. She will engage with ethnobotanists, healers and botanical centers to understand the role of plants in different national identities. Awareness of connections in her native Nicaragua sparked her interest in identity formation.

Hunter will study "Nature-Based Interventions for Public Health." He will spend three months each in Scotland, Japan, Australia and New Zealand as he studies how societies engage with nature in an effort to treat chronic diseases and mental-health-related ailments.



Maria Alejandra '22



Hunter '22

Moot Court Students Finish in National Top 10

Students Huê '23 and Daniela '25 took 10th place in the national brief-writing competition this past winter. The 2021 national case problem focused on a simulated decision by the U.S. Congress and the president to issue a mandatory vaccination requirement to prevent an outbreak of polio inside the country. This problem was not only current, but also quite complex, and was presented before a simulated panel of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). Student pairs must work on their document without any assistance, and they must certify in writing they received no outside help once they began preparing their brief. Each brief is submitted to the American Moot Court Association with no identifying names or school affiliations, eliminating possible bias. Submitted briefs were evaluated by panels consisting of

lawyers, judges and law school professors with experience and expertise in U.S. Constitutional Law, and the brief's format and analytical substance had to meet the requirements used in real-world SCOTUS briefs.

Huê and Daniela received an average score of 91.5 on a 100-point scale across four categories of evaluation. This year of moot competition was the first for both Huê and Daniela, with Daniela being a first-year student. The pair competed against students from the University of Chicago, Yale, Duke, the U.S. Air Force Academy and Holy Cross.

Huê and Daniela's success can be attributed to yearlong teamwork. "While a particular student pair in a particular year may or may not win an oral or briefing competition, they are part of a consistent system of shared learning and

support that is the platform for every other moot student's success," said Dr. Daniel Huck, the Moot Court team's supervising professor.



Berea College Recognizes 80 Students at Mid-year Ceremony

Alumnus and former Berea College Trustee Robert Yahng addressed the 80 seniors recognized at Berea College's Mid-year Recognition Ceremony. The students represented 20 states and five countries.

Yahng, who was introduced by Board of Trustees Chair Stephanie Zeigler, spoke to the graduates of the importance of their achievement during what he called "extraordinary uncertainties."

"When making decisions, it's important to weigh your options and think strategically about the next step," Yahng told students. "Identify your current options, and then look ahead at what position each option would put you in. Imagine what options you will have so that you will know in advance what you would do if it works out, or if it doesn't work out. Try always to put yourself in a position where you have a choice. If you haven't figured it out already, you already know that the probability of success in life improves when you have options."



What's Hot on Social

14K reach



CUP LIBRARY

Composed of mugs made by students, alumni, and professional ceramicists, the Cup Library invites students to check out a mug to use and enjoy for a semester. In the fall of 2017, Susan Bonta '18, a student Ceramic Apprentice from the Art Department, approached Hutchins Library with the idea of relocating an art installation from the potter studio to Hutchins. Over 100 people attended the open house in 2019, and 78 of the original 133 cups were checked out during those four hours. The Cup Library is available again, and students have returned to checking out cups! Alumni Anne Cinnamond '20, and assistant director of library services Amanda Peach, wrote an article about Berea's Cup Library. They were awarded "Outstanding Article of 2020" from the Kentucky Libraries journal. Read the full article at <http://ow.ly/C8GF50HROBY> (posted 2/10/22)

1,500 impressions



APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for domestic and transfer students to apply is March 31. Apply today at <http://ow.ly/8Cib50HFX96>. **#BereaCollege #admissions #highereducation #collegeadmissions #college #education #apply** (posted 3/24/22)

9,042 views



BELL HOOKS REMEMBERED

Berea College is deeply saddened about the death of bell hooks, Distinguished Professor in Residence in Appalachian Studies, prodigious author, public intellectual and one of the country's foremost feminist scholars. She died at her home in Berea after an extended illness. (posted 12/15/21)

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

1949

Jeanne Haring Schoonover graduated from the school of nursing in 1949. At that time, it was a three-year program. She is now 93 years old.

1951

Mary Ogle Bremier published her memoir “The Shadows of Appalachia” in 2021. The book is available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other shopping locations.

1952

Clara Blackburn Bradbury and **Raymond Bradbury Fd ‘46** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Nov. 28, 2021. They have resided at the retirement-life community of Matthews Glen in Matthews, N.C., for 12 years. Raymond retired 30 years ago as president of Martin County Coal Corporation.

1953

Lattie Mae Corbin Keeter retired from classroom teaching after 30 years. She writes that she lives alone in her home of 50 years, after the death of her precious husband, Jack, in 2019 from Parkinson’s disease. They have three married children: Tammy, her two sons and two granddaughters live in Greensboro, N.C.; Carolyn and her three sons in Virginia; and Randy and his son and daughter live in Hickory, N.C. They visit as often as possible. Her two little great granddaughters, Brinley and Teagan, are a special delight.

1954

John “Ken” Gwinn was married to **Ruby (Wendy) Pickett Gwinn ‘53** for 50 years. Recently he celebrated 17 years with second wife, Lynette. When they reach 19 years, they’ll have a 100 year celebration. His first 50 [years of marriage], her first 31 years plus their 19 will make 100 years combined.

Loyal Jones was inducted into the Kentucky Writers Hall of Fame for 2022. Read more: <http://ow.ly/78Be50I4Hpy>

1955

James Leonard Greer, during the recent pandemic, found time to complete and publish a 386-page book titled “Oral History and My Appalachia.” It is published by Carypress International Books and can be found on Amazon.

1958

Dr. Kelly Moss misses their spouse, Betty Simpkins Moss ‘57 of 64 years. Betty passed away on Sept. 23, 2021. Moss works at Primary Plus Rural Health Clinic in Maysville, Ky., two days per week.

1962

William E. Gill Jr. attended school at Berea from 1955 through college, graduating in 1962. After a successful career in rural electrics and a brief stint as a regional representative for the National Association of Home Builders, Gill is retired now. He resides in Brooklyn, N.Y., with his son and daughter-in-law.



Dr. Don Smith retired from the University of Houston-Victoria and now lives in San Antonio, Texas. The University honored him and his wife, Mona Smith, with a new residence hall named in their honor.



Rose Hayes Swope is enjoying volunteer work teaching watercolor painting at assisted living.

1964

Jack Roush, motorsports icon, presented in November to students at Monroe County Community College in Monroe, Mich., where he taught approximately five decades ago. Roush signed autographs and met with students, staff and community members. Read more: <http://ow.ly/O5WF50I4HrO>
Roush was also inducted into the 2022 class of the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in March. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3N9TSSw>

1966

J. Bruce McKinney has enjoyed playing golf with classmates **Chuck Eckler**, **James “Bones” Owens** and **Roger Vanover** several times during the past year. He and his wife, **Maggie Jordan McKinney ‘68**, returned to traveling and visiting with family and friends during the past year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic!

1968

Dr. Barbara Durr Fleming announced the release of her new book “Desperately Searching for Higher Education Among the Ruins of the Great Society.” Based on her data analysis, Dr. Fleming concludes America is operating two national school systems—one for the rich and one for the poor. Her book is available on Amazon.

1969

Dr. Carolyn Ann David Garrison retired Dec. 31, 2020, after teaching at Campbellsville University School of Education for 47.5 years—a total of 50.5 years of teaching. She continues to serve as an adjunct professor of education, teaching graduate literacy classes. She and her husband, **Bruce Garrison**, who is retired from teaching public school, live in Campbellsville.



Joseph Horton retired in 2008 from the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives.

Voe Hines Morris is grateful to have survived COVID-19 after a 10-day hospital stay. She retired July 1 from her habilitation specialist position with Northwest Community Services, where she worked with developmentally disabled individualized supported living (ISL) home residents.

1970

Ron Reed is enjoying the first few days of retirement after teaching at Hazard Community and Technical College since 1987 as a professor of English. He is now enrolled in the Bluegrass and Traditional Music program, learning how to play a mandolin and how to play the guitar with a bit more taste. Ron and his wife, **Teresa Reed ‘71**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in late June. They are enjoying life up on the mountain and the occasional breakfast in town on Sunday mornings.

1971

Lonnie Jones retired from employment with the state of North Carolina as an office manager with the Employment Security Commission. He and his wife, **April Ramsey ‘72**, have served Welcome Home Baptist Church in Ashe County, N.C. as bi-vocational pastors for the past 23 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

1979

Dr. Anthony C. Hackney has been named by the International Olympic Committee to a medical commission to develop guidelines for maintaining health and performance in elite athletes.

1984

Roy Huffman graduated with degrees in mathematics and physics in 1984. He went to graduate school and got his master’s in mathematics. He joined the Navy in 1997 and retired in 2017. He’s been married to his wife, Marcia Huffman, since 2006. He is still working in the Virginia Beach, Va., area until retirement.

1985

Dee Wathome has published three books “Days of Elijah,” “Journeying Successfully” and “Following the Master,” all of which are available on Amazon here: <http://ow.ly/On5p50I4Huz>

1986

Joseph Goins celebrated a milestone birthday cocktail/dinner party that he hosted for friends at Boone Tavern on Dec. 19, 2021.



FIRST ROW: Marie Wilson ‘86, Laura Earles ‘84, Mert Gareis ‘85, Jody Gray ‘85, Willa Chambers ‘85, Le Jane Bandy Liebert ‘85, Stormie Goins Maneval ‘81 **SECOND ROW:** John Graham ‘85, Steve McCollum ‘84, Gary Chapman ‘84, Eric Crowden ‘84 and Joseph X. Goins ‘86

1990

LeAnne Davis Croteau and her husband, Marc Croteau, have purchased her grandparents’ farmhouse and live in tranquility on top of a mountain in Greeneville, Tenn. She is a critical care paramedic currently enrolled in online nursing classes.

Dr. Tammy Horn Potter reflects on physician and First Lady of Berea College, Dr. Louise Hutchins, wife of Berea’s President Francis Hutchins (1939-1967), as someone often overlooked for her contributions to the state and beyond. Read more: <http://ow.ly/aniE50I4Hwn>

1991

Enola G. Freeman has several stories published in the anthology “Sister Muses” with her longtime writing partner, Dr. Elisabeth Wolfe. The stories range from different viewpoints on biblical stories to modern retellings of Greek myths and stories based on obscure urban legends, all with a twist of “What if...?” Her book is available on Amazon.

Dr. Angela Fultz was recognized for her term as a general education faculty regent to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System Board of Regents. Read more: <http://ow.ly/Zpoc50I4HKC>

1995

Kathryn Coughlin announced her candidacy for Natick, Mass., Select Board in November 2021. Read more: <http://ow.ly/wPle50I4Igr>

Mae Suramek ran for the 89th District seat in the House of Representatives for Kentucky. Read more: <http://ow.ly/Uf9p50I4lih>

1998

Melody Rose Teague was elected to serve as the Southern Region director for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Board of Directors and currently serves as the national chair for the Leadership and Administrative Skills Committee. She is also the president-elect of the Extension Journal Inc. (Journal of Extension at Clemson University) Board of Directors. She was a Class X graduate of the Kentucky Ag Leadership Program in 2014. She currently teaches multiple classes on Southern Appalachian culture, history, native plants and folklore and is a certified wine judge. She works for University of Tennessee Extension.

1999

Tammy Lynn Clemons earned a Doctorate of Philosophy and graduated from the University of Kentucky Department of Anthropology in May 2021. Her dissertation is entitled “Producing Possibilities: Envisioning and Mediating Youth, Identities, and Futures in Central Appalachia.” Read more: <https://bit.ly/TammyLClemons>. As part of this research, she conducted an oral history project on “Youth Activism in Different Generations in Appalachia,” which was funded by a project grant and transcription grant from the Kentucky Oral History Commission and is housed in the University of Kentucky Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History. Read more: <http://ow.ly/WIZF50I4lms>

In 2020, Clemons published an article about this oral history project in the special issue of the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society on “Beyond the War on Poverty: New Perspectives on Appalachia since 1970.” Read more: <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/772261>

Clemons is also a media artist currently working as an artist mentor for the Appalachian Teaching Artist Fellowship through Partners for Education at Berea College, and she became an adjunct instructor in general studies at Berea in Fall 2021. She is the board secretary for the non-profit organization Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest and recently accepted invitations to serve on the editorial board for the digital *Kentucky Folklife Magazine*, sponsored by the Kentucky Folklife Program and the board of Kentuckians for the Arts (beginning July 2021).

2000

Katie Poulette Startzman and **Michael Startzman ‘97** discuss plans for a brewery in Berea, Ky. Read more: <http://ow.ly/LsVk50I4INZ>

2001

Yedidiyah Yisrael writes, “Shalom and Blessings from The Most High. I just want to say that my years at Berea College proved to be very instrumental on my personal journey. Having three children and now grandchildren springing up I must say my priceless experiences there were well earned! Also, now as an automotive mechanic (technician), that automotive course in the Technology department was well worth it. P.S. Did I also mention that if not for the curriculum I probably wouldn’t know how to swim until this day. So what if I had to take the course twice, it was just as nice!”

2002

Chaka Cummings joined the Prichard Committee in 2021 as director of K-12 and equity policy. Read more: <http://ow.ly/w4fi50I4ITI>

2003

Stephen Wiggins is one of eight artists from across the commonwealth selected for Kentucky Crafted, the Kentucky Arts Council's adjudicated program that provides assistance to Kentucky visual and craft artists through marketing and promotional opportunities and arts business training. Wiggins' work can be purchased and viewed at the ArtHouse Kentucky at 576 East Third Street Suite 120, Lexington, KY 40508. The website is <https://www.Arthousekentucky.org> and they are also on social media @arthousekentucky.



2005

Jesse Morrison discusses how he found his love for agriculture and grew that into his career as an assistant research professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences in the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station on Mississippi State University's farms. Read more: <http://ow.ly/GCFO50I4IVI>

DeJuana L. Thompson, president and CEO of Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, was named one of the three co-chairs for the transition team for Mayor Randall Woodfin's second term in Birmingham, Ala. Read more: <http://ow.ly/a8W550I4IWr>

2006

Andrew Jones was endorsed by the Alabama Forestry Association for state Senate. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3tADQZ3>

Makenzie Wells reflects on how her practicum empowered her career transition. Read More: <http://ow.ly/OaLz50I4J4j>

2009

Jason Pearce was announced in December as the newest member of the Board of Directors for Let's Empower, Advocate and Do, Inc. (LEAD), a nonprofit corporation with a mission to promote mental-health education for students, educators and organizations.

2011

Paul Adkins, a first-generation graduate from Pikeville, Ky., graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Master of Science in Education (instructional systems design) in December and was promoted from extension agent to senior extension associate with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service's Nutrition Education Program, serving Louisville-area limited-resource families and supporting program assistants for the Nutrition Education Program.



2012

Cliff and **Pamela Todd Sakutukwa** are excited to announce Cliff's graduation with his Master of Business Administration from Yale (2019) and Pamela's graduation with her Master of Education in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard (2021). Cliff and Pamela live in Chicago, where he is a strategy manager at Deloitte Consulting, and Pamela is currently exploring opportunities. They both are grateful to Berea for opening so many doors, including meeting each other while students at Berea.



2013

Kyle Kincaid loved God and loved his time at Berea College. He also loved writing and spoken word poetry. His mother, Denise Kincaid, shares a collection of his writings and spoken word poetry to honor his memory. Read more: berea.college/KincaidPoetry



Senora May Lainhart reflects on her influences, her passions and making music in Appalachia in an interview with *LEO Weekly*. Read more: <http://ow.ly/Kah550I4J7y>

2014

BIRTH: twins, Evelyn and Owen, to **Ashley Thomas Schroader** and husband, John Schroader.



2015

BIRTH: a daughter, Madalynn Esther Grace, born to **Chelsea Cantrell Bentley** and **Jordan Bentley '18** on Jan. 20, 2021. Madalynn is their first daughter.



2016

Nicole Lynn Baker graduated from Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2021. She moved to The Dalles, Ore., to start an associate veterinary position at Columbia Veterinary Hospital.

2019

Yohannes N. Amsalu is elated to announce his first product to the world. JoBuna is a coffee and tea brand. All the products are from his motherland, Ethiopia.



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HOW DOES IT WORK?

Go to Berea.edu/give and use our cryptocurrency donation platform powered by **The Giving Block** to donate crypto directly from your wallet. Your donation is automatically converted to cash.

HOW MANY CURRENCIES DO WE ACCEPT?

Currently, we accept through **The Giving Block** over 70 cryptocurrencies that have been vetted and legitimized by Gemini Exchange, a well-known centralized exchange that abides by strict U.S. regulations and are backed by large banking systems, such as JPMorgan Chase & Co. However, if you don't see your preferred coin listed, our partners at The Giving Block can accept your donation through other partners.



Disclaimer: The information provided does not constitute investment advice, financial advice, trading advice, or official advice of any sort. Consult with your financial tax advisor if you are interested in making a cryptocurrency donation to Berea College.



Student, Lie '25, organized a drawing project to celebrate Women's History Month in March. She used a whiteboard in the Alumni Building lobby to draw caricatures of women who have made an impact around the world, highlighting their names and a snippet about their accomplishments. This image is of Laverne Cox, born May 29, 1972. She is an American actress and LGBTQIA+ advocate. She rose to prominence with her role as Sophia Burset on the Netflix series *Orange Is the New Black*, becoming the first transgender person to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award in an acting category.

Staff & Faculty

Jonathan Aldrich
English (1970s)
Jan. 6, 2021

Mary Elizabeth Barnes
Keypunch Operator
Field Outreach Development Office
Dec. 4, 2021

Linda Lou Grant Fish '78
Secretary (1967-2009)
Dec. 4, 2021

Dr. Abdul H. Rifai
Professor Political Science (1966-2016)
Oct. 10, 2021

1940s

William J. Blessing, Fd '44
April 10, 2021

Nell Sanning Carrington '44
Nov. 22, 2020

Wallace B. Hayes, Navy V-12 '44
Sept. 24, 2021

Melvin Gordon Satlof, Navy V-12 '44
Sept. 16, 2021

Bertha Bell Seal '44
Feb. 6, 2017

Frederick L. Corts, Navy V-12 '45
April 14, 2017

Dr. Jeannie H. James '45
June 12, 2016

Donald K. Clark, Acad. '42, '46
Sept. 5, 2021

Joan Clark
Spouse of **Allan F. Clark, Jr. '46**
May 31, 2019

Margaret Gadd Fowlkes
Spouse of **Robert L. Fowlkes '47**
March 21, 2019

Ruth Steinberg Geis '47
July 16, 2021

Margaret Frye Holmes '47
Aug. 23, 2021

Laughlin C. McLean
Spouse of **Sammye Sturdivant McLean '47**
May 20, 2020

Margery Murphy Zakian '47
March 3, 2018

Dr. Reedus Back '48
Nov. 29, 2021

Dr. Warren E. Bulman '48
Jan. 8, 2022

Sheridan L. Risley KH '49
Feb. 13, 2019

Dr. William H. Roush '49
Nov. 9, 2021

1950s

Charles S. McNeer '50
July 29, 2018

Aileen Miller
Spouse of **James D. Miller Jr. '50**
Dec. 22, 2018

Richard Wilbur Parker Jr., Acad. '46, '50
Jan. 11, 2022

Josephine Beck Sanders '50
Dec. 8, 2020

Jeanne Purkey Deschamps '51
Nov. 21, 2021

Eula Jean Lindon Meier '51
June 26, 2021

Helen Knight Finnie '52
March 2, 2018

Mary Evelyn Black Green '52
Aug. 7, 2021

Glenna Jewell Kuehn '52
Aug. 1, 2021

Robert Ray Maye '52
Oct. 22, 2021

Theadosia Hogan Ribet '52
July 25, 2021

Mary Lou Boggs Bean '53
Oct. 19, 2021

Corine Robinson Bell '53
Oct. 21, 2021

Marjorie Martin Bixler '53
Jan. 2, 2017

Dixie Lee Napier
Spouse of **Bill B. Napier '53**
Aug. 11, 2020

William E. Parker '53
Sept. 12, 2021

Rose Mary Brockman Bush '54
Nov. 5, 2021

James Franklin Conley '54
Nov. 4, 2021

Dolores Mitchell Grubbs '54
Sept. 11, 2021

PASSAGES

Gloria L. Harper
Spouse of **Elwood N. Harper '54**
Aug. 3, 2017

Emily E. Pugsley
Spouse of **James Pugsley '54**
May 17, 2020

Mildred P. Hartzog
Spouse of **Everette Filmore Hartzog '55**
Aug. 12, 2017

Clara Halterman Reho '55
Jan. 16, 2020

Dorothy Coffey Wierwille '55
Jan. 1, 2022

Jean Sargent Brown '56
Aug. 22, 2021

Elizabeth Ann Hampton Peters '56
Sept. 28, 2021

Robert D. Hatmaker, Fd '52, '57
Jan. 31, 2019

Dean T. Jones '57
Sept. 9, 2021

Shirley Willard Leach '57
Nov. 15, 2019

Betty Simpkins Moss '57
Sept. 23, 2021

Martha Noss Whitis '57
Oct. 25, 2021

Cora Dale Wilds Bowman '58
Oct. 1, 2021

Delores McMahan McCravy '58
Sept. 21, 2018

Creed Messer
Spouse of **Virginia Cook Messer '58**
May 8, 2021

Johnny Franklin '59
Sept. 26, 2021

Dr. Harold Denton VanHook '59
Nov. 14, 2019

1960s

Marie Carter Washburn '60
Oct. 31, 2021

Banner G. Childress
Spouse of **Shirley F. Swift '61**
Jan. 12, 2021

Phillip I. Earl
Spouse of **Jean Moore Earl '61**
Jan. 8, 2019

Rev. Howard Newton Gothard '61
Nov. 11, 2021

Doris Hardin Bey '62
Aug. 22, 2021

Hilda Brigmon Mull '62
Sept. 13, 2021

Bruce Garfield Singleton '62
Oct. 10, 2021

Barbara Campbell Wall '62
Nov. 8, 2021

James L. Carringer '63
Nov. 25, 2021

William C. Mathes '63
Nov. 6, 2017

**Brigadier General Ronald Pierce
Woodson '63**
Sept. 22, 2021

Gerald J. Bergen
Spouse of **Joyce Thompson Bergen '64**
Dec. 19, 2019

Beverly Lear Falin '64
Oct. 7, 2021

Robert E. Long
Spouse of **Myra Nanney Long '64**
Obituary Unavailable

Pat Yates '64
Obituary Unavailable

Diana Lea Hays '65
Nov. 3, 2021

Joyce A. Richardson
Spouse of **Cyrus B. Richardson Jr. '65**
Dec. 5, 2021

Betty Thompson Ducharme '66
Jan. 15, 2019

Beula Adkins Fraley '66
Sept. 23, 2021

Thomas R. Freck
Spouse of **Ellen Leonard Freck '67**
July 27, 2021

Thomas E. Morgan
Spouse of **Jewell Miller Morgan '67**
Sept. 14, 2019

Edward Daves de Rosset '67
Oct. 29, 2021

Edward L. Sotzing '67
Obituary Unavailable

David L. Arney
Spouse of **Anita Payne Arney '68**
Oct. 29, 2020

Wayne V. Francis '68
Obituary Unavailable

Leo D. Meddings '68
Oct. 14, 2021

John Joseph Watson '68
Jan. 8, 2022

Dr. Bobby W. Burchette '69
Oct. 9, 2021

1970s
Brenna Wilson
Spouse of **William Wilson '70**
March 1, 2019

J. Michael Orr
Spouse of **Linda Pratt Orr '71**
May 21, 2017

Pamela Cline Montgomery '72
Nov. 7, 2019

Christine Howard Burchette '73
Nov. 7, 2021

Anna Umber Mapp '76
June 20, 2021

Velinda Salyers '76
Sept. 30, 2021

Linda Lou Grant Fish '78
Dec. 4, 2021

J. Wyatt Sasser
Spouse of **Nancy Taylor Sasser '78**
Feb. 21, 2019

Kenny Joe McMullen '79
Dec. 13, 2021

1980s
Sharron Davis Anderson '85
Dec. 24, 2021

1990s
Dr. James Rickey Van Winkle '91
Dec. 15, 2018

James Dillon '98
Nov. 23, 2021

Nicholas C. A. Vaughn '98
Obituary Unavailable

2000s
Bert Glendon Lunsford '01
Oct. 11, 2021

2010s
Matthew Ralph Frederick '10
Dec. 25, 2021

Anastasia McGeorge Saunders '10
Oct. 12, 2021

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



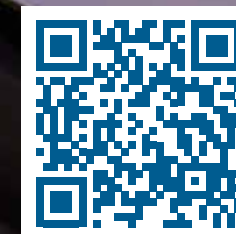
Berea's Students Need You and Your Generous Support More Than Ever

1,600
scholarships

1,323
scholarships

Generous alumni and friends like you have helped fund 1,323 scholarships this year. But with only a month left before the end of the fiscal year, we have a significant amount left to raise to provide No-Tuition Promise Scholarships for each of our 1,600 students. Your gift to the Berea Fund supports annual Tuition Promise Scholarships and helps ensure the Berea College experience continues for talented students. Give the gift of education today.

Meet Micah '22



bereda.edu/give/micah

Photo by Crystal Wylie '05



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

