

# BEREA COLLEGE

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2023 Volume 93 Number 3



## We'll Cross That Bridge

Exploring Berea's support  
for transitioning  
to life after college

"Inside Special"  
Farewell to the Roelofs, pg. 26



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Celebrate the Roelofs' 11-year tenure at Berea College with reflections on their accomplishments, memories, relationships and legacy. Page 28

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#### ABOUT THE COVER

This issue of the *Berea College Magazine* kicks off a three-part series touting Berea's supportive environment with a cover illustrating the themes of Bridge In, Bridge Through and Bridge Out. All photos were taken by Thomas Moonjeli '23 on the metal bridge in Brushy Fork connecting the trails that run along Silver Creek.



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR


## Dear Berea Alumni and Friends,

In late November, I interviewed two young women. Both were Communication majors, both were drawn to broadcast journalism—and both blew me away. These two women, one a senior and one a junior, were participating in the culminating experience of the GST 110A course, Enhancing Career Readiness. This is the fourth time I've helped with this course, taught by members of the Office of Internships and Career Development. Each time I am more impressed with the students I interview. But maybe more than that, I find myself in awe of the knowledge and experience these students are gaining just before graduating and entering graduate/professional school or the workforce—I hope in a career that excites them, using the degree they will soon complete.

Volunteering for two hours to take students through a true-to-life interview has become a highlight of my time at Berea. Having worked in my career field for nearly 20 years, I love having a small hand in helping develop Berea students into the kind of people companies or graduate schools cannot wait to discover or hire. Having sat on both sides of the interview table multiple times in my life, I know how important a good first interview and impression are in obtaining one's dream position. The explanations, understanding and skills Berea's Office of Internships and Career Development are providing our students is second to none. This type of resource was not available when I graduated two decades ago, but like so many other supports in place for Berea students today, the need was seen, recognized and filled by staff and faculty whose life mission is to see students change their life trajectories.

This issue of the *Berea College Magazine* kicks off a three-part series touting Berea's supportive environment. Berea doesn't just accept academically promising students and provide them a tuition-free education. From before students arrive for their first day of class until after they walk across the graduation stage and through the door of their next life chapter, Berea has specialized in understanding the demographic of our student body, anticipating its needs and meeting them, often before students even realize there was a need. These supports—in, through and out—form a bridge over what could otherwise be very troubling water for many of our students. As they stand at the edge of a rushing river that for other more-privileged students may only appear as a trickling stream, they don't have to trudge across and be swept away or turn back too fearful to test the waters. Berea's bridges help them seamlessly navigate an otherwise scary unknown, especially for our first-generation students, who make up 67 percent of our student body.

We begin that series in this issue focusing on how the Bridge Out supports Berea's graduates. Staying with the Bridge Out theme, this issue then also seems natural for honoring a couple who are contemplating their own departure from Berea, President Lyle and First Lady Laurie Roelofs and for celebrating their legacy and accomplishments. Please dive in and learn, celebrate and be in awe of the ways in which Berea follows its mission to better the lives of all who enter...and exit.

  
Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03  
Editor





# Why a Bridge

By Chad Berry

Berea must confront a unique challenge among colleges: how can it best serve the underserved? In any given year, nearly 60 percent of incoming students have an expected family contribution of \$0, meaning they come from families who cannot pay anything toward the cost of higher education. More than half of first-year students come from families in which neither parent has achieved a four-year degree and virtually every domestic student is a Pell Grant recipient. By mandate from the Board of Trustees, 70 to 80 percent of admitted students come from Kentucky and central and southern Appalachian counties.

In 2011, Berea began to think more intentionally about the metaphorical bridge to clarify and give purpose to the work in supporting students of great promise and low economic means. Although there are three components of the bridge metaphor—bridge in, bridge through and bridge out—the focus of this issue is on ways Berea College has helped students facilitate the design and construction of the bridge out from Berea into the world beyond.

The following year, Berea welcomed Lyle and Laurie Roelofs to the community. And as the Roelofs traveled the country meeting alumni and friends of the College, their talks with many alumni conveyed that the College needed to offer more assistance to help students launch into careers than it did for them. That counsel confirmed that the bridge-out metaphor was an essential strategic frame for the work that lay ahead. It would be crucial in supporting students for the world beyond, perhaps in a way no other college could or has done.

Today, the bridge out is full of aspects that make Berea's supportive environment unparalleled in higher

education. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Berea can support its students today in ways unimaginable to alumni more than a decade ago.

What other college do you know that fundraises for almost 300 students to have the internship of their dreams without worrying how they will pay for it? That takes seniors to a department store, where they meet with professional clothing advisers who outfit them in business attire for interviews free of charge? That provides money to visit graduate schools and subsidizes test preparation for a host of professional educational opportunities?

A dozen years ago, a story circulated about a Berea graduate who received a prestigious fellowship in an urban area. Several months after graduation, that graduate's former faculty advisor called to check in and see how things were going. The graduate expressed that things were going well, enjoying living and learning in a new setting. And then the graduate made this statement: Once I get my next stipend check, I should be able to leave the homeless shelter.

Despite an enduring commitment to serve the underserved, Berea had fallen short in supporting its graduates. Today, made possible by generous philanthropy, graduates receive a check for \$500 to assist with a move to a new area or help pay a security deposit on an apartment. These funds help them walk across their newly constructed bridge for the first time, turning around midway to look back at the College that equipped and prepared them for success. Other colleges don't do that. The true beauty of Berea's bridge is not that it exists, but that such a need was recognized, understood and addressed in its creation, allowing the College to meet the unique and ever-expanding needs of our students. ■



# Ready for Her Moment

By Jason Lee Miller

Rhea Carter '20 is still in shock. The communication major from a little place called Gray, in Knox County, Ky., was invited to a round-table discussion with none other than former President Barack Obama to talk about her experience as a first-generation college graduate who is now in public service. This is a tale of how that came about.

Though her family was low-income, Carter was bound for college. The valedictorian and Governor's Scholar had options thanks to a stellar academic and service career in high school, but none of the scholarships she was offered covered everything. Her guidance counselor thought she'd be a perfect fit for Berea College.

"So, I toured Berea," she said, "and I fell in love with the campus and the people. I loved the environment, the vibes, the students, the professors, and the cherry on top was to be tailored toward that low-income experience—not having the stress of not having the newest shoes or the newest car. I felt like I was right where I was supposed to be and that everyone else had that sort of similar life experience."

Carter received the Pinnacle Scholar Award of Excellence and joined other talented students in the Berea Bridge program, which allowed her to get better acclimated to college life the summer before her first year, an experience that cemented her love for her chosen school.

In her first semester, Carter was placed in a class focusing on Appalachian representation in film with Professor Silas House. They focused on movies like "Deliverance," "Coal Miner's Daughter" and "The Dollmaker," diving into critical analysis of how rural and Appalachian people are depicted in the media. The class was so impactful,



Rhea Carter '20 developed her passion for Appalachia at Berea and is now dedicated to a career of service to her home region.

Carter added a double minor in Appalachian studies and peace and social justice.

"Having so many great professors around me who were from the same area that I was from—successful people who also cared about their home and wanted to give back to their home region—was really inspiring for me," she said.

For her labor position, Carter was placed in Craft Education Outreach, and the next year she went on to take a position reviewing submissions to the *Appalachian Review*, Berea College's literary magazine. She says it was a great complement to her Appalachian studies minor.

"I became more confident in my perception of art and poetry and writing," she said, "but also Appalachian

representation, knowing when something is hitting the mark and when something is maybe a little bit over the top. That was a such a cool experience. I'm so happy that I was able to work there."

Carter took advantage of all the College had to offer, including a "bucket-list trip" to Greece for six weeks of studying mythology abroad. She had grown up interested in Greek mythology because of her name, which is pronounced REE-AH. Rhea (pronounced RAY-AH in Greece) is the mother of the five eldest Olympian gods. Study-abroad funds available to Berea students paid for most of the trip.

"My only student loan is from studying abroad," she said, "and that's the ultimate testament to the

opportunity that Berea provides someone—a debt-free life after college."

The following year, with the help of the Office of Internships and Career Development, Carter spent the summer in North Carolina, interning with the Partnership for Appalachian Girls' Education. As her senior year progressed and she worked on her capstone focusing on Appalachian representation in media, Carter was also preparing for the professional world that awaited her after college.

"[The Office of Internships and Career Development] gave me funding for professional clothing, so I bought my first suit," Carter revealed. "They had a tour bus that took us up to Lexington to Macy's. It's just the most support you could have."

Graduating in 2020 meant having her final semester cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic, when the College sent students home. Carter went home to rural Knox County, where she finished her degree on a College-provided Wi-Fi "hot spot" due to her parents' lack of internet connectivity.

Landing a job would have been difficult during a national crisis, but she

impressed the folks in Berea College Admissions and was able to get a job with BereaCorps. BereaCorps is a grant-funded program that provides recent Berea graduates the opportunity to work in staff positions at the College to gain professional experience. (Learn more about BereaCorps on page 20.)

Through her BereaCorps position, Carter attended monthly professional development workshops that included topics like Microsoft Excel and doing taxes. She also had access to professional development funding, which she used to get a certificate in grant writing from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

When she graduated from the "Berea bubble," as she and others have called it, she looked out into the world and asked herself some important questions. "Okay, here's the real world again," she said. "What needs to be fixed? What can I work on? How can I give back?"

She found that opportunity to give back at Partners for Rural Impact (PRI), formerly Partners for Education (PFE), in a position she calls her dream job as a Lead for America Fellow working on broadband access in Appalachia. There

are 50 Lead for America Fellows across the United States and five in Kentucky. Funded by Land of Lakes, Carter helps people sign up for a broadband internet subsidy provided by the federal Affordable Connectivity Program.

"I think throughout the pandemic, it was obvious to everyone how necessary internet connection is to someone's success in this world," Carter said.

Next came "the experience of a lifetime." PFE and Education Forward Arizona hosted the Rural College Access and Success Summit in Scottsdale, Ariz. The event caught the attention of the Obama Foundation, which had partnered with Airbnb to introduce the Voyager Scholarship. Carter was flown out to participate in a roundtable discussion with President Obama and Airbnb CEO Brian Chesky.

"I'm still in shock that that even happened to me," she said. "They were so polite and warm, and everything you hear about President Obama is true. He's just so present and welcoming. I was so honored to represent Berea and talk about all of the amazing things that Berea can do for students and how that should be emulated by other colleges and universities."

Carter credits Berea College with preparing her for big moments like that one and for her sense of purpose.

"I don't think I would be who I am today if it hadn't been for Berea," she said. "Because of Berea, I have purpose. Berea gave me passion and a foundation to make change." ■



Carter meets former President Barack Obama at the Rural College Access and Success Summit in Scottsdale, Ariz.



# In Focus: Senior Portraits

By Jason Lee Miller

The story of how senior portraits get made can be told through what they are, but also what they are not. For starters, senior portraits are not Crystal Wylie’s job.

“It wasn’t something that was an initiative of the College or even of this department,” said the 2005 alumna who is the director of digital multimedia strategy. “We are in no way required to do this because we have enough multimedia work without senior portraits, but we wanted to give this gift to seniors.”

Since 2017, Wylie has led a team of student photographers in more than 650 professional photo sessions for graduating seniors. Each session is 20 minutes and,

photography department gain real photography skills and customer service skills and build a portfolio. The students receiving the photos have a leg-up in the workforce. They already will have professional head shots for LinkedIn or a staff page at their next job.”

For the 11 student photographers working 10-hour weeks on Wylie’s team, senior portraits are not part of their career paths. One student is learning to develop software. Another, a biochemistry major, plans to be a doctor. All the student photographers have their respective majors, which may or may not include photography. Wylie says it’s not just practical photography experi-

We want to make sure that they understand that their interactions with our clients are our top priority. It’s not how good you are with a camera.”

“I love taking senior portraits because it gives me a chance to learn about seniors,” said student photography manager and business major Nay Kaw ’23. “They’ve shared with me their most challenging times, happiest moments and lessons they’ve learned through it. Senior portraits capture a pivotal moment that seniors will remember forever. I hope they share these photos with their family and friends to thank everyone who helped them on their journey and inspire others like them to pursue higher education.”

So, if it’s not her job, there’s no strategic marketing value for the College, it’s not the student photographers’ career paths and it’s not about technical expertise, what are senior portraits about then?

“When you put that stole on them, it makes the dream of graduating real to them,” Wylie said. “And that moment, you get to see it because you’re the one putting the stole on, adjusting it, helping them with their cap. And through these images, we really make them feel proud of what they’ve accomplished. We get to be part of that moment where they put this cap and gown on for the first time. They get to see themselves as a Berea College graduate.”

Please scan this QR code to view and follow the Berea Photo and Video Instagram page for a behind-the-scenes look at our student photographers in action across campus.



Through these images, we really make them feel proud of what they’ve accomplished. We get to be part of that moment where they put this cap and gown on for the first time. They get to see themselves as a Berea College graduate. — Crystal Wylie ’05

in the world outside Berea, would cost a student upwards of \$100-\$200. For many of them, it’s their first experience having their photos taken with professional lights and backdrops. They bring props. A future veterinarian brought a snake, and a tennis player, her racket and ball. The quick lights capture movement, subtle changes in facial expressions.

“Not only are we giving them a product they can use over and over again, but they don’t have to pay for it,” Wylie said. “We’re giving them an experience that they probably wouldn’t have had anywhere.”

But if there’s no strategic value to the photos for Berea, why do it?

“Marketing and communications offering senior portraits is great!” said student photography manager and business major Tyler Rocquemore ’22. “It really does have a full-circle effect. Students who take senior portraits in the

ence for them.

“It became this amazing opportunity for our students to practice all year long with their peers,” Wylie said. “It’s not just the practical photo experience. It is the interaction, the interpersonal communication and making connections, but also showing those seniors we care about them. Even though it’s not their career path, it’s something that is a creative outlet they’re going to have for the rest of their lives.”

It’s also not about how good the students are with the camera. It’s about how good they are with the subjects.

“When starting out as a new photographer, my biggest concern is not if you can use a professional camera,” Wylie said. “Most of them have never been introduced to things like the exposure triangle or artificial lighting. We ask, ‘how are you going to treat everyone that comes in our studio?’





# Office of Internships and Career Development: *A Pillar of Support during the Pandemic*

By Aazan Ahmad '25

In March 2020, just two days after spring break, President Lyle D. Roelofs sent an email to the campus community announcing the end of in-person classes on Friday and asking students to move out of residence halls on Saturday. In further messages, he informed students to request on-campus accommodation for the remainder of the semester if that suited their circumstances. Due to the gravity of COVID-19, Roelofs, after in-depth consultation with the Administrative Committee, cancelled the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 and invited those students to return to campus to participate in future in-person commencement programs.

Those emails raised many questions regarding academic coursework, travel assistance eligibility and travel plans. While some professors had plans for continuing coursework online, other professors needed additional time to shift to online teaching. While some students had internet access in their homes, there were others who did not and needed to make arrangements to study at their local libraries, request a College-provided Wi-Fi “hot spot” or speak with their professors regarding the possibility of exemption.

The 2020 graduates had slightly different questions. While disappointed about not being able to walk across the stage at their graduation, they were perplexed about employment as well as the feasibility of further education. Despite operating during unprecedented times, Berea College did not cease its

ardent support for these students. The Office of Internships and Career Development (ICD) continued to remain a resource for students, especially seniors, for assistance in a variety of areas such as résumé consultation, networking assistance and graduate-school counseling, among other services.

Three 2020 graduates shared narratives of their final days as students at Berea College and their present time as alumni, detailing how the ICD positively influenced their individual success.

## Growing through adversity

Sean Mack '20, a sociology major, had to postpone his graduation from May to December.

“I was housing insecure,” Mack said, describing what the campus closure meant for him. Not having anyplace else to go, he was grateful Berea allowed him to stay in the Ecovillage.

The rising cases of COVID-19 in the surrounding community heightened the need for precautions and thus increased isolation. Not only did Mack take classes via Zoom, but he also had to social distance from his friends and had to attend therapy sessions virtually for mental-health support.

He also transitioned from working as a student chaplain to working at the horticulture farm, which was a silver lining of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I think working at the greenhouses was one of my fondest memories because it was one time where I could

have some type of social interaction with other human beings that wasn't behind a screen, even if it was at a distance,” Mack said. “I got to use mowing equipment, improve my gardening skills and even learned how to drive a tractor. It gave me something to do, and while I was in the fields, things felt almost normal.”

In addition, Mack received CARES Act funds, which he was able to use to purchase a car, and he was fully supported by the ICD, which helped prepare him for his next steps.

“They helped me create a high-quality résumé, taught me interview skills and helped me explore my professional goals through the class they offered in spring 2020,” he explained.

He went on to describe the invaluable experience he gained working as an Opioid Crisis Research Intern in Shamokin, Pa., which was made possible with funding the ICD provided for living expenses. Not just that, but the ICD provided funding for Mack to attend his internship program's opening



Sean Mack '20



The Office of Internships and Career Development assists students in selecting and purchasing professional attire for use in interviews and careers after graduation. In addition, the ICD hosts a class each year that gives juniors and seniors expert advice on developing proficient interviewing skills to set them apart in the job world.

and closing conferences. Those conferences allowed reflection on the work the interns did in cooperation with law enforcement on tackling the prevalence of opioid abuse due to local pill mill operations.

“Amanda [Tudor], Esther [Livingston], Amelia [Gardiner] and Sara [Cornett] all do amazing work, and I'm very thankful for their dedication that made my experiences possible,” Mack said.

After graduation, Mack became a seasonal contractor for Turbo Tax and enrolled in graduate studies at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. At the end of tax season, he attended virtual classes at the seminary before deciding to pursue computer science. Now he is studying online at Oregon State University for his second undergraduate degree.

As an individual with autism, Mack is familiar with the mental exhaustion one experiences from social interactions, which is a pivotal responsibility of a social worker, and so he decided to serve the community via technology.

“One of the most important things Berea did for me was help me to explore who I am and what I want out of life,” he said. “The community (staff, faculty and students) all encouraged me to try new things, find my passions and, most importantly, love myself as I am,” Mack said, citing Berea College as his inspiration for his disposition toward new experiences.

While unsure of his ultimate end goal in terms of career, Mack is confident about one thing: no matter which career path he chooses, he will emulate Berea's efforts to bring change through



Sienna Burgess '20

promoting diverse communities and service.

## Discovering her calling

Sienna Burgess '20 was another senior affected by the events of the COVID-19 pandemic. A psychology major with a minor in Asian studies, she remembers President Roelofs' grave email to this day.

“During my last semester, I decided to work 20 hours, and that day, I was up in the stacks at the library, shifting and cleaning the shelves,” Burgess recalled. “When I saw that email, I felt so many emotions at once, but more specifically, confusion.”

Belonging to a family with five kids and being the eldest child, Burgess received permission to stay on campus to take her classes virtually and to work as well.

Due to a labor shortage in the facilities management department, the Labor Office assigned Burgess to work as a facilities assistant in a residence hall; while the job was physically stressful, she was able to manage the workload due to support from her supervisors.

“Mrs. Jennifer Anglin, Mrs. Teresa Barrett, and Mrs. Toby Rader made those days a lot better. I am thankful for all their kindness and encouragement because, without them, I'm not sure if I could have made it through those few months,” she expressed with gratitude.

With her sole priority being to





Chad McPherson '06 of Fahe talks to a student during the Internship Fair hosted by the Office of Internships and Career Development in October 2022. The fair created opportunities for students and employers to connect in the fall to get ahead of the summer internship hiring season.

maintain good grades in her senior year, Burgess did not incorporate making career plans into her schedule. She cited Roelofs' daily updates as the source for learning of the open BereaCorps positions. She was hired into a BereaCorps position in the Donor Experiences and Services department, where she worked remotely for nearly two years. While she did get lonely, she explained, she was grateful for the professional experience nevertheless.

"The team I worked with supported me and listened to me when I was going through a lot in my personal life,"

Burgess reflected. "The experience helped me to learn a lot about myself and what type of environment would work best for me."

One of the important things Berea did for me was help me to explore who I am and what I wanted out of life. The community encouraged me to try new things, find my passions and, most importantly, love myself as I am.

— Sean Mack '20

During her time in the BereaCorps position, she attended Erica Woods' résumé workshops and kept the materials as reference. Upon learning of a job opening at Hutchins Library, she used the materials from those workshops to further polish her résumé and made appointments with Amelia Gardiner for consultation.

"Thanks to her, and a few of my coworkers, Sam Milligan and Katie

Grindstaff, I got the job," she said. Burgess now is a user services specialist at Hutchins Library.

Having learned of the importance of being career-ready, Burgess makes it a priority as a labor supervisor to work with her labor students on an individual basis to make sure they are aware of the resources available at the ICD. She invited Gardiner to meet with her students during a labor meeting.

Burgess enjoys her current job, which she described as a thriving workplace.

"I can continue providing services to our patrons, but when I need some time to work alone, I can go and prepare things such as labor meetings...or go upstairs and assist my students with maintaining the cleanliness of our stacks," she said.

Though Burgess initially planned to

go to graduate school to become a clinical psychologist, she had an epiphany while working for the College. While she believes she would have been successful in the psychology field, she would not have been happy. She struggled to find a career in which she would not only be successful but feel complete; she has found both in her present job.

"One of my students sent me photos of their summer internship, and I cried after seeing those photos because they thanked me for pushing them to take on an internship," Burgess said, describing the satisfaction she finds in her current role.

With encouragement from coworker Amanda Peach, she is considering attending graduate school to study library science to better serve the community. She explained the importance of having a good community library, saying not only do libraries provide dynamic resources for children and adolescents to develop socially and

I have realized that every time I have shared stories from Berea College, there has always been a smile on my face because I truly believe that Berea College was my home. — Ashvanika Dodwani '20

culturally, but libraries also provide technological benefits for adults, such as attending online job interviews.

Each of the alumni shared words of encouragement for the Class of 2022 and future graduating classes.

"To the recent 2022 graduates: I'm so proud of you," Mack said. "I saw so many of you begin as [first-year students], and seeing you make it through and graduate was such an amazing feeling. Two-and-a-half years were tough. To make it through four years speaks volumes to the dedication and work ethic you have."

He cautions future grads that "Berea College is not an experience you can coast through. It is hard, and I won't promise it will be easy to graduate. But

I can promise you that when you do finish and get that degree, it will be the most amazing feeling in the world, and it will be something that you can take with you no matter where you go in life."

"To the future graduates, take full advantage of all the opportunities Berea College offers," Burgess added. "The Office of Internships and Career Development has a page of resources for alumni, too. Please take advantage of it and do not get discouraged. There are more people who are invested in your success than you think there are. The only thing you need to do is ask for help and surround yourself with people who are rooting for you." B



In September, the Office of Internships and Career Development hosted a Career Development Week. On one of the days, ICD representatives were stationed on campus with donuts giving out information to students about the ICD staff and the variety of support services available to students.



# Top 3 Majors Awarded

Business Administration • Computer and Information Science • Psychology



## 84%\*

of students participated in at least one Special Learning Opportunity\*\*

## \$4,000

average cost per Berea College-funded internship experience (includes \$900 for summer savings)

## 82%

of student interns received full or partial funding from Berea to make the summer experiences possible

## 194

internships completed in 29 states during the 2020-21 academic year

## 18%

of students reported that they received a full-time job offer from the organization where they interned

## 673

Career Development appointments held with 307 students

## 106

students received funding for interviews and relocation

## 259

students received funding for professional clothing

\*Percentage reflects a decrease due to the COVID-19 pandemic. \*\*internship, service-learning course, education abroad, or undergraduate research. Stats from the 2020-21 academic year



Photo by Crystal Wylie '05

“I came to college prepared to work hard for my goals. I came to make the most of myself so I can give back and make my family proud. I came to the right place.” – Victor '23

Victor is yet another reminder of the good your gifts do for outstanding students who simply need a hand. Please make your gift at [www.berea.edu/give](http://www.berea.edu/give), or by sending a check in the enclosed envelope.



Participating in the Fashion Expo program, Maya Riddles '20 prepares to "walk the runway" showing off her new professional attire. Berea students receive a \$350 grant from the Office of Internships and Career Development to purchase professional clothing. Each year, the ICD takes a group of students to Macy's department store and attendants assist them in selecting appropriate, professional attire to aid them in putting their best foot forward for job interviews and the start of their professional careers.



## FROM HARVEST TO CREATION

by Andy Glenn

The Woodworking School at Pine Croft came into the Berea College fold in 2019. Tucked under the West Pinnacle, Pine Croft extends Berea College's extensive history of craft and craft education beyond the central campus. This past year was the first full season of hosting classes with students from around the country.

The school is nestled within the Berea College Forest, which plays a key role in many of our classes.

In spring 2022, we offered a hickory bark harvesting class. The course is unique within the woodworking community and only possible with the support of the Berea College Forestry department. Head Forester Clint Patterson and his student crew helped collect 10 small trees (around 8-10 inches in diameter at their base) and delivered them to Pine Croft's dooryard.

Hickory bark is traditionally used in woven baskets and as seating in ladderback chairs and is appreciated for its beauty, strength and durability. Harvesting the bark is a labor-intensive process comprised of cutting away the crusty outer bark before peeling off the prized inner bark. The bark "slips" from the tree during the Kentucky spring and is pliable like leather when wet.

While leading the group into the forest to collect the trees, Patterson discussed safe, sustainable usage of resources and explained that harvesting bark for chairmaking fits well with his overall forest management strategy focused on using trees removed for forest improvement purposes. In a sense, these overtopped trees that likely would have died before reaching mature sawlog size get to "live on" in the form of hand-made chairs that reflect the Appalachian craft culture.

Upon returning to Pine Croft, course participants were thankful for the crisp summer day, the gentle breeze and working alongside one another to harvest the useable bark. The collected bark was gathered into a large pile and divided amongst crew members, with each person taking enough for a chair seat or two.

A week-long green wood chairmaking class followed the hickory bark harvest and was combined with red oak also collected within a mile of Pine Croft. This made for a truly unique woodworking experience resulting in a distinctly Berean chair.



## THE WOODWORKING SCHOOL AT Pine Croft

Registration is open for upcoming classes.

859-985-3224 • [www.pinecroftwoodschooll.com](http://www.pinecroftwoodschooll.com)



# The Bridge to a Successful Career

Sree P S '24

Andreea Teban '19 wanted to get a liberal arts education and moved from Romania to Berea to fulfill her dreams. She heard about the liberal arts in a summer school and was drawn to the promise of holistic development that this form of higher education offered. At Berea, she majored in business administration with a minor in economics and took several classes in religion and German.

Toward the end of her academic tenure at Berea, she applied to the BereaCorps program. The grant-funded initiative provides recent Berea graduates the opportunity to work in staff positions at the College to gain professional experience. Positions are for one year but can be extended up to two years. The same way that Berea's liberal arts ethos combines academic and personal exploration, BereaCorps integrates professional and personal development, inspired by Berea's ideals of providing ongoing support to students.

"Like every graduating senior, I really struggled with what was going to happen after I graduated," Teban said. "The fact that I was an international student also made it harder on my job application process. Learning about BereaCorps and how the program is structured, it just made sense that I would apply. I ended up working for the Labor Office as a training

associate, working with a training specialist to help them create trainings related to soft-skill development that we could give to supervisors and teams in labor departments across the campus."

The program helped Teban build relationships with other members of her BereaCorps cohort and her supervisors. She learned a lot about workplace dynamics and how important having a supportive work environment is to learning the skills needed to progress in one's career.

Teban fondly remembers the mentor relationship she built with her supervisor Rosanna Napoleon '13. "Rosanna was really great at keeping me accountable. We always set goals together," she said. "And that's the part of the program where you and your supervisor will sit

down and set goals for yourself for that year and ensure you have everything you need to achieve those goals. [And] some of those goals could include applying to graduate school, getting certain certifications that would give you an edge up on your résumé—anything that would build you as a young professional."

In addition to the compensation and employee benefits like health insurance and paid vacation and sick leave, every BereaCorps participant is allocated funds for activities that kickstart careers. This could mean covering the cost of attending a confer-



Crystal Wylie '05

Andreea Teban '19 completed her BereaCorps program working in the Labor office as a training associate. Today, she is the associate director of digital annual giving at Berea College.

ence or graduate school application fees, GRE fees and study materials.

Teban chose to stay in Berea after her BereaCorps experience, with a deeper understanding of the mission of the institution that fostered her and a desire to be part of it. Currently the associate director of digital annual giving for Berea's Alumni, Communications and Philanthropy division, she is glad to have found an occupation that marries her passions and talents with her personal values.

Likewise, Bria Williams '17 felt at home at her new workplace, Zimpatica, a software solutions and business process management company based in Fairfax, Va., because it resembled the environment in Berea. The associate consultant found a niche community full of people who help each other grow, reminiscent of her time with the BereaCorps program and her college experience.

Williams was a computer science

major at Berea and worked as a software development associate during the second year of her BereaCorps experience. "I was working with Scott Heggen, who was also my mentor at Berea. [Dr. Heggen] helped me develop a lot of my programming skills, and also just more of my confidence," Williams said. "In terms of learning things, Scott is one of those people who will accept you where you are. He knows that I struggle to ask questions sometimes. As my boss, he remembered how I was as a student, [and] he created an environment for me where I didn't have to be afraid to ask questions."

During her first year with BereaCorps, she worked as an admissions associate for the Office of Admissions which was a little out of her comfort zone. However, the relationships and the skill set she built working there comes to

I think a rewarding aspect of the program is when people find a passion for the next steps in life. Some people come into the program knowing exactly what they want to do; for some people, it is truly a gap year, and they're trying to figure it out. — Erica Woods

her aid as a young professional.

"I have been to job fairs and did some recruiting for the company that I currently work for, and I was prepared for that," Williams said. "I have done college fairs in three different states due to Admissions. So, [recruiting in job fairs] every once in a while for my current company is a breeze for me now. The people that I worked with—the admissions representatives—during my first year in BereaCorps, are all still in the same group chat that we were in, and we are always sending memes and jokes and talk to each other. So those connections that I made are still there."



Photo submitted

Bria Williams '17 completed the BereaCorps program working as a software development associate. Today, she has a successful career with Zimpatica, a software solutions company, using the skills she learned in her academic studies and BereaCorps position.



Teri Thompson, vice president for strategic initiatives, addresses the 2017 BereaCorps cohort, which included Erica Woods '15 (pictured fourth from the left in green). Today, Woods works with Thompson as the strategic initiatives coordinator for the BereaCorps program.



Both Williams and Teban spoke about the workshops and team bonding initiatives put together by Erica Woods '15, a strategic initiatives coordinator.




Erica Woods '15

The administrators of the BereaCorps program organize events and workshops that help develop essential skills and professional acumen. The sessions covered topics like filing taxes, professional conduct, conflict management, financial management or navigating Microsoft Office's full benefits. Supervisors also check up on BereaCorps participants regularly and offer assistance as needed.

"My philosophy is that everyone is a leader in their own way," Woods said. "A lot of the workshops focus on leadership development, professional communications and strengths development, so people can understand where their strongest faculties are. I think a rewarding aspect of the program is when

people find a passion for the next steps in life. Some people come into the program knowing exactly what they want to do; for some people, it is truly a gap year, and they're trying to figure it out."

BereaCorps offers development and exploration of the personal and the professional. It provides a space of stability and safety for students to discern their futures and kickstart careers. And it is tailored to the needs of recent graduates, to support graduate school applications or job applications, and to help participants figure out whether to stay close to home or give them the confidence and resources to bridge out. 



Members of the 2022 cohort of BereaCorps, standing (left to right): Ronin McWain, Chase Sloan and Tiler Baah. Seated (left to right): Ja'Lynn Stanley, Abi Sell and Siree McRady.



Photo by Justin Skeens

## NOTICING THE LITTLE THINGS

by Jason Lee Miller

Elaine '23 developed a love of plants in high school. Unfortunately, her suburban Alabama neighborhood didn't have a lot of biodiversity.

"We have two trees in our whole yard," she related. "Everything else is just grass. And that was really sad for me. I would sit under this one tree because I was like, 'This is the best I got. I have this one tree I can sit under and feel close to nature.'"

The biodiversity of Berea College's 9,000-acre forest was a welcome change for the biology major and forestry minor, who could now enjoy nature near campus. She took a job in woodcraft, making baskets from wood harvested from the region and designed in collaboration with Stephen Burks, an American designer and a professor of architecture at Columbia University. The process of making awakened an appreciation for how things are made.

"Most people don't have that knowledge of where things come from, how they're made," Elaine said. "When I can see the whole process, I know how it gets from point A to point B, then I have more of a connection to it, and it means more to me."

Then, last summer, Elaine deepened her appreciation for how things are made by taking an internship in Student Craft's dye garden at the Berea College Farm. She liked to get up early and bike over to the horticulture garden when no one else was there. She would harvest Hopi sunflower, marigolds, safflower and Navajo tea in the cool of the morning as the sun rose over the dewy plants and the bees slept peacefully. The flowers she collected were used to dye some of the limited-edition placemats and coasters produced by Weaving and the broomcorn in Broomcraft.

"I knew that I wanted to do some sort of work with plants," she said. "I knew I already enjoyed crafts because I worked in the woodshop. So when I heard there was an internship opportunity [with Director of Weaving Erin Miller in Student Craft], and I hadn't really had any plans for the summer, I was like, 'that suits me perfectly.' It's bringing together two things that I really like—the crafts and then working with plants."

She found certain classes helped her in her tasks with the dye garden. Botany helped her to distinguish between plants. Reading books about dyeing brought back memories of chemistry class. Elaine was forging connections that again moved her to appreciate the art of making.

"I started paying more attention to little things. So now when I look at wood, I can look at the grain pattern and see how beautiful it is. And in weaving, working with dyeing, it was the same thing. Where before I just saw cloth, and it wasn't very interesting or important to me, but now when I see it, I see all these colors that are really interesting, and I think about how it was made. My clothes mean more to me now than they did before because now I can see the work that was put into them."

## EVERY PIECE TELLS A STORY

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

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## Berea College Celebrates Inaugural bell hooks day



In remembrance of the late bell hooks, iconic feminist scholar and former Distinguished Professor in Residence in Appalachian Studies, Berea College hosted the first bell hooks day on Sept. 21, 2022.

In honor of hooks' 70th birthday, which would have been this past year, the bell hooks center celebrated her life, love and legacy. Several events were held on campus as part of the celebration.

bell hooks day kicked off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on bell hooks way on Berea's campus. The ceremony included remarks from Dr. M. Shadee Malaklou, director of the bell hooks center; Associate Provost Dr. Eileen McKiernan-González and Dr. Channell Barbour, vice president for Student Life.

"bell hooks day is an opportunity to honor and further her dissident feminist interventions, both in the material we choose to teach and in the activities in which we choose to participate," said Dr. Malaklou.

Born Gloria Jean Watkins on Sept. 25, 1952, hooks grew up in the segregated town of Hopkinsville, Ky. Her upbringing urged her to challenge topics such as racism and patriarchal norms. She adopted the name bell hooks to honor her great-grandmother, Bell Blair Hooks, but she used all lowercase letters to focus on the importance of her writings, not her name.

hooks taught at institutions such as Stanford, Yale and The City College of New York before becoming a professor in residence at Berea College in 2004. Upon her arrival, she drew particularly close to our Great Commitments centered around interracial education, gender equality and service to Appalachia. The bell hooks Institute was established at Berea College in 2014, and in honor of hooks' legacy, the bell hooks center was opened in fall 2021.

For more information on the bell hooks center, visit <https://www.berea.edu/bhc/>.

## Berea Student Selected as 2022 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow



Nathaniel '24 was selected to participate in Campus Compact's 2022 Newman Civic Fellowship. The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and supports community-committed students who are changemakers and public problem solvers at Campus Compact member institutions.

Fellows are nominated by their college's president because of their potential for public leadership. Campus Compact is a non-profit organization advancing the public purposes of higher education.

A Bonner Scholar majoring in economics, with a concentration in international politics and policy, as well as a minor in agriculture and natural resources, Nathaniel holds a labor position with Grow Appalachia, an outreach program of Berea College.

## Berea College Named No. 5 Liberal Arts College

*Washington Monthly* ranked Berea College as the No. 5 liberal arts college in the nation in its 2022 College Guide and Rankings, up eight spots from the 2021 rankings. Additionally, the College retained its ranking as the No. 1 Best Bang for the Buck College in the South in this year's guide—making it five out of the last six years that Berea landed the top spot for affordability.

According to its website, *Washington Monthly* rankings are based on what [colleges] do for the country... their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility, research and promoting public service.

"Berea College strives to offer a high-quality liberal arts education that engages students as they pursue their personal, academic and professional goals," said Berea College President Lyle Roelofs. "We are honored to be moved up to the No. 5 spot among liberal arts colleges, and proud that our affordable model still makes us the top 'Best Bang for the Buck' school in the South."



## Berea Students Awarded Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grants

Two Berea College students were awarded the 2022 Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grants. The \$1,000 grants were awarded to 125 students across the nation. The grants are designed to support undergraduates from campuses that have Phi Kappa Phi chapters, to expand knowledge and experience in their academic fields by studying abroad. The recipients are Yennifer '23, a political science major who will study abroad in Egypt, and Keetara '22, a psychology major who will study abroad in Ghana.

The selection process for a study-abroad grant is based on the applicant's academic achievement, campus and community service, relation of travel to academic preparation and career goals, letters of recommendation and acceptance into a study-abroad program.



## Senior Receives Outstanding Student Scholarship

The Kentucky Organization for Student Success (KOSS) awarded the Paul Bush Outstanding Student Scholarship to Destiney '23 for her outstanding academic performance, progress and motivation in overcoming obstacles to educational goals, and for presenting outstanding service to school or community.

Teri Thesing, developmental mathematics professor, nominated Destiney to recognize her motivation and desire to excel. Destiney's progress in developmental mathematics class led Thesing to encourage her to register for her first computer science class. Destiney excelled in the course.

Destiney completed her first internship with Car Keys Express Louisville, then her second at Disneyland in Los Angeles. She returned to Berea as a mentor and inspiration to other students in the developmental math classes.

The computer science major is set to graduate in May and has a job offer from Wells Fargo.



## Berea Sets Record for Gilman Scholarship Awards

A record 21 Berea College students received more than \$92,000 in funding to study abroad through the U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

Berea College recipients studied in 16 countries in summer and fall 2022.

## Two Appalachian Advocates Awarded Berea College Service Award

Former Berea College First Lady Jane Stephenson and community organizer Michael Maloney were awarded 2022 Berea College Service awards, which recognize individuals who have provided outstanding service to our society in achieving the ideals of Berea's Great Commitments.

Born in Banner Elk, N.C., Stephenson has focused her career on helping people, especially women from Appalachia, to achieve their educational and career goals.

In 1987, she founded the New Opportunity School for Women (NOSW) at Berea College, which seeks to improve the financial, educational and personal circumstances of low-income women in the Appalachian region, and began by offering a free, multi-week residency program. More than 925 women have graduated from NOSW programs. Prior to founding NOSW, Stephenson taught courses and held administrative leadership positions at the University of Kentucky, served as the First Lady of Berea College while her husband, John Stephenson, was president, and later served as the Appalachian director of the Steele-Reese Foundation.

Michael Maloney is a community organizer, educator, social researcher and civil rights activist. Born in Breathitt County, Ky., Maloney moved to Cincinnati to attend college and started a movement to encourage urban Appalachians to celebrate their heritages and to organize community-based programs to serve people from the mountains and their descendants. He founded the Urban Appalachian Council in 1974 to promote decent quality of life for Appalachian citizens in Greater Cincinnati. He led the organization for years and helped transform it into the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition (UACC) in 2014. Maloney now advises non-profit organizations and offers trainings on topics related to the Appalachian region and community organizing.



## Berea Alumnus and Spouse Inspire Mid-year Graduates

Berea College recognized 74 students during its December Mid-year Recognition Ceremony. Carl and Ann Evans addressed the seniors, who represented 17 states and five different countries.

Born and raised in Berea, Carl is the grandson of the first College dentist, Dr. William Best, and the third child of Ellen Best Evans '30 and former dean of Labor, Dr. Wilson Evans '30. Carl graduated from Berea's Foundation School in 1962. He continued his studies at UNC—Chapel Hill. When the Vietnam War began, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a medic at RAF Lakenheath, England. There, he met Ann. They were married in 1970.

Born in Ohio, Ann served as a

lieutenant, captain and Air Force nurse. Ann completed her bachelor's degree at Butler University. She earned her nurse practitioner certificate, master's degree and doctorate at UNC—Chapel Hill.

Carl went on to complete a bachelor's degree at Indiana University's Herron School of Art and Design before establishing a career as a professional artist and counselor. Ann's professional roles included healthcare provider, nursing faculty positions, director of a community medical center and consultant to the Ministry of Health in South Sudan.

Carl's and Ann's abiding belief in the mission of Berea College have inspired them to live out Berea values around the world as leaders, humanitarians and philanthropists.



# The Bridge Out

By Jason Lee Miller

At the edge of campus, an iron bridge stretches across Brushy Fork Creek, leading to scenic trails open to hikers of all stripes. Over the past 11 years of Lyle D. Roelofs' presidency, the bridge has become a symbol of initiatives designed to ease the path of the economically disadvantaged students traversing the campus terrain. There is a bridge in—summer programs

and resources that help the newly admitted Berea College student to transition to college. There is a bridge through—a supportive environment that increases retention and promotes the success of a demographic that tends to struggle to finish college.

And there is a bridge out—the unique supports offered to graduating students to help them establish a life after completing their degree.

The bridge analogy in higher education is avant-garde. At Berea, no student is admitted and then left to fend for themselves. During Roelofs' presidency, retention and graduation rates have steadily increased, thanks to the supports offered to students.

"Lyle's transition a decade ago necessitated a steadfast and consistent leader who was genuinely interested in people's well-being and success," said Stephanie Zeigler, chair of the Berea College Board of Trustees. "Under his leadership, Berea has been focused on student enrollment, retention and success; all things that others in higher ed are just now talking about."


This issue of *Berea College Magazine* focuses on the bridge out, just as Lyle and Laurie Roelofs make their own transition to life after Berea. As retirement beckons, they leave behind a legacy of care, from their promotion of big ideas like community wellness through the President's Run/Walk Club to small acts of kindness like providing

Lyle's transition a decade ago necessitated a steadfast and consistent leader who was genuinely interested in people's well-being and success. Under his leadership, Berea has been focused on student enrollment, retention and success; all things that others in higher ed are just now talking about.

—Stephanie Zeigler

popsicles to Summer Bridge program students nervous about working as groundskeepers at the President's Home. For all the major initiatives that succeeded over the past decade—the construction of the Margaret A. Cargill Natural Sciences and Health Building,

the nation's first college-built hydroelectric station, the Great Committees that reiterated and reaffirmed the College's Great Commitments, and the repeated high rankings of a Berea education by national publications—perhaps the greatest accomplishment of "Papa Roelofs" and "Mrs. President," as the students have affectionately called them, is re-creating and continuing the "beloved community" that has always defined Berea College as an institution.

The thing about bridges is they go both ways. In that sense, there is a bridge in, through, out and back again. Though the Roelofs are taking the bridge out to retirement, the beloved community will always welcome them back with open arms. 







President's Office  
Lyle D. Roelofs  
CPO 2182  
Berea, KY 40404

## Dear friends and alums of Berea College,

We are proud to begin this piece by noting that we were invited to join the ranks of Berea alumni recently and are honorary members of the class of 2022.

The final year of our term as Berea's presidential couple is certainly bittersweet. **There is and was so much inspiration and reward in being part of the leadership of the most amazing college in the country**, and, as we look forward to our retirement on June 30, 2023, we will certainly miss all of that.

Even more, we will miss all the amazing Bereans who have inspired us with their stories. We have come to realize it is those stories that constitute the true essence and identity of Berea College, and we regarded it with highest honor that so many of you entrusted us with your stories. **We are forever in your debt and can only thank you and assure you that you have profoundly enriched our Berea stories as well.** Very few Bereans wait to start their Berea stories until they are in their 50s, so we have packed a lot into the past 11 years.

Our story started in Fall 2011, with a two-day campus interview visit. We had read the Shannon Wilson history of the College, and Lyle had had a couple of meetings with the presidential search committee. So we both approached that trip with a sense of real anticipation. Would the reality of Berea live up to the hype and rhetoric? We spent those two days encountering so much about Berea and meeting so many Bereans. We both remember getting on the airplane back to central New York and saying to one another how unbelievable it had all been, and how we would certainly accept the job offer in a heartbeat if we were so fortunate as to receive it. Well, it did come a week or two later, and we accepted immediately, delighted that our Berea story would not end after a short preface.

Many chapters have followed since that beginning, too many and too rich to write about here. But one of the early ones would be about how in our first two years we were privileged to travel extensively throughout the country to meet Bereans where they lived and worked. **You were all so generous in sharing with us in those gatherings, and you were good teachers and storytellers, laying the groundwork for the profound and deep understanding of Berea that its leaders must acquire.**

Now we are writing the last few chapters of our Berea story, and it is time to say farewell to so many of you. It will not be possible for us to travel around the country again, as we would like to do. Thanks to the time we lost to COVID-19, there just isn't time to fit all of that into our last year. Also, you and the College will be looking with excitement (that we share) to the future, to the next chapters of Berea's overall story beyond the leadership transition.

**Thankfully, as we have said so often, and to every incoming class of Bereans, once a Berean, always a Berean!**

That is as true of a Berea friend as it is of a Berea alumnus. So, you can be assured that we will continue as your fellow alums to be Bereans. And Bereans are always Being and Becoming, so over time, we, like you, look forward to becoming even better Bereans. Thanks for launching us well on that rewarding and never-ending journey!

*Lyle + Laurie*

Lyle and Laurie Roelofs, Hon. '22

*Investing in Lives of Great Promise*

# A Constructive Presidency

By Kim Kobersmith

**T**he Berea College campus looks and feels different than when President Lyle D. Roelofs arrived 11 years ago. Physically, his presidency has been marked by a busy time of construction; the completion of nine new structures and six significant renovations translates into more than one project per year.

Most of the construction focused on residence halls. Anna Smith, Dana, Bingham and Seabury underwent complete renovations, while Danforth and Kettering were replaced. Dr. Chad Berry, vice president for Alumni, Communications and Philanthropy, knows the significance of replacing aged structures. "Our students often have lives fraught with insecurity," he said. "These provide safe and efficient places to live. Philanthropic partners helped Lyle tackle deferred maintenance to construct a physical campus worthy of the people we serve."

The largest academic project was the Margaret A. Cargill Natural Sciences and Health Building, called the MAC building. The former science building had an unintentional indoor waterfall when it rained and was not able to accommodate the technology for modern science instruction. Berea benefitted from Dr. Roelofs' experience, both as a former physics professor and as leader for two science building construction projects at previous institutions.

Dr. Megan Hoffman, biology faculty member, served on the design committee for the MAC building. An abundance of study rooms and intentional instructional spaces were an integral part of the design, with the aim to foster an academic culture.



In April 2016, members of the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Committee for the College broke ground on what would become the Margaret A. Cargill Natural Sciences and Health Building. The MAC building replaced the Hall Science Building in the center of campus and combined not only natural sciences but the Nursing and Math departments inside one state-of-the-art facility.

"I designed my classroom," she said. "It is flexible for different styles of teaching, and the labs are part of the classrooms, which is pedagogically wonderful."

Hoffman was involved in the fundraising for the \$68 million building and says the focus was on how it would impact students. While on a trip viewing science buildings at other colleges, she demonstrated her teaching style and described how she wanted her new classroom to support her work. The MAC building was made possible by hundreds and hundreds of large and small donations and by a generous matching challenge from the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies that leveraged those gifts four to one.

"The buildings completed during Lyle's tenure are a complement to the ways he and Laurie both worked

tirelessly to convey to students that they mattered," Berry said. "They know hundreds of students by name, and that student-centeredness manifests in the kind of work they did to provide well-constructed and well-maintained state-of-the-art spaces for students."

## Mindful Construction

Berea's Great Commitments were a powerful draw for Roelofs. "They are the most essential and precious elements of Berea College," he said. "They are both a complex nuanced statement of identity and an aspirational vision of what we want to accomplish."

To ensure that their guidance was up to date for the challenges of the 21st century, Roelofs knew he wanted to lead the campus community in a



re-envisioning process around them. In 2014, he invited every member of the College faculty and staff to join what were called Great Committees. The eight groups worked over a full year to articulate the school's mission, develop goals and craft new comprehensive descriptions for each commitment. More than a third of the College's employees were involved in the effort, and the experience and resulting documents served to reenergize the campus community around these central statements.

The Seventh Great Commitment, supportive and sustainable living, is one that Roelofs has particularly embraced during his tenure. It speaks to the lessons learned around campus, outside of the classroom, about how the community practices caring for others and the earth. Many of the projects he has encouraged, and the ways he has helped

guide new campus facilities, are examples of just that.

"Laurie and I were already strongly committed environmentalists," he said, "but I didn't know sustainability would be such an opportunity at Berea."

The buildings completed during Lyle's tenure are a complement to the ways he and Laurie both worked tirelessly to convey to students that they mattered. They know hundreds of students by name, and that student centeredness manifests in the kind of work they did to provide well-constructed and well-maintained state of the art spaces for students.

— Dr. Chad Berry

Building on existing practices at the College, all the new non-residential structures on campus—the MAC building, the Facilities Management Complex, and the new technology building under construction—will be LEED Gold certified. The most widely used green-building rating system in the world, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards consider energy use, water use, indoor environmental quality, material selection, site and location within the surrounding community.

Construction of the new Larry D. and Nancy L. Shinn Hall (formerly Deep

Green Residence Hall) was started during Dr. Shinn's presidency and completed during that of Roelofs. It was an experiment to push the limits of green building practices for university housing. It won numerous awards and achieved LEED Platinum certification, the highest level available. Upon its completion, it was the greenest residence hall in the world.

Several other new structures intentionally support the campus sustainability mission. The Berea College Farm Store offers organic groceries from the College farm and other local producers. Daily prepared meal options in the dining hall and at the Farm Store incorporate farm products and give students the experience of enjoying value-added foods made with organic ingredients.

While not actually on campus, a hydroelectric plant on the Kentucky River is an important element of the College's sustainability efforts. The renewable electricity it generates offsets half of the College's electrical carbon footprint. The project is also a sound investment. By selling the power to the electric cooperative near the plant, the College receives a return on investment greater than the school's endowment could provide. Construction is already underway for a second hydroelectric



The Margaret A. Cargill Natural Sciences and Health Building opened in fall 2018.



Biology Professor Dr. Megan Hoffman shows off the new lab spaces in the MAC building during the building's dedication tours in October 2018.



plant upriver from the first. Upon its completion, the College will generate as much electricity as it uses—all without fossil fuels.

## Managing the Forest for Sustainability

Many of the best recreational opportunities around Berea are a result of the College opening its lands to the public, a practice that has expanded with Roelofs' leadership. Spring is a great time to see ephemeral wildflowers at Anglin Falls, summer is perfect for paddleboarding on Owsley Fork Reservoir and fall colors are dramatic from the Indian Fort Mountain Trails overlooks. The hikes at the Pinnacles have recently been recognized as the best in Kentucky.

Berea has a long history of forest stewardship as the owner of 9,000 acres. The Tirbracken Green Forestry Outreach Center, another new and mission-minded building, is located at the entrance to the Indian Fort Theater trails. The center provides nature-focused programs and information, deepening visitors' understanding of and connection to the forest and inspiring them to preserve these kinds of natural systems. As Roelofs sees

it, Berea College holds the deed but, in turn, accepts the responsibility of managing managing the College Forest for the benefit of the whole region in a way that promotes and displays a commitment to sustainability.

Roelofs has been a strong advocate for the College's new (in modern times) horse-logging program. It is one tool in the College's restorative land management practice that also selectively harvests diseased, dying and dead trees, improving the health of the forest overall. It is ideal for Appalachian forests, which are hilly and rugged and usually contain a mix of tree species.

The College first utilized a team of mules to harvest 5,000 board feet of lumber for paneling and furniture in Shinn Hall. It was an important element of the building achieving Platinum LEED status. Dr. and Mrs. Roelofs saw a video on the College website of the mules at work—their names were Fred and Dan. Upon arrival, discovering that they were contracted for the work and not actual Berea College "employees," the Roelofs were inspired to shift all logging to animal power to eliminate the damage to the forest caused by the use of mechanical tree-harvesting methods.

Two teams, each consisting of two horses and two loggers, are already on staff. The teams are managed by a trio of horse logging program technicians who worked with Roelofs to establish the 70-acre horse farm located a few miles off campus. Along with adequate pasture, it contains a new barn to house the 12 animals necessary for the annual harvesting goals of the forest. It will be the only educational draft-horse barn with both public and student access in Kentucky.

The draft horses are also sustainability educators. The Agriculture Department incorporates them in class curricula. The farm is easy to access by both road and hike/bike trail and welcomes guests to learn about sustainable forest management through programs and informational signage. "By coming back to horse logging for sustainability, we have come full circle," said John Hite '19, one of the horse logging program technicians, "not because of the history of it but because it is the best, low-impact way we know to do it."

The College has access to an additional resources that supports its work as good stewards of the forest: the California



Carbon Market. Currently, a trucking company offsets the carbon emissions from its business by purchasing credits generated from the carbon absorption power of the forest. Berea College invests those funds back into further sustainability initiatives, like the new horse barn and the acquisition of additions to the College Forest.

## Supportive Culture

Roelofs' presidency has been constructive beyond buildings and environmental initiatives. As the Great Commitment for Supportive and Sustainable Living reminds us, "we acknowledge we are not on this journey alone—we will need each other along the way." He has brought a mindfulness of how he can come alongside other members of the College community.

Dr. Megan Hoffman, biology professor, observes that the Roelofs are approachable and accessible to everyone on campus. They have invited the campus community to join them for a twice-weekly jogging/walking time to get to know them in an informal setting. Their email addresses are available to students, and they respond when any member of the community reaches out. Other times, students stop them on campus walkways to discuss concerns or make friends with Nellie, their dog. During monthly faculty meetings, he shares his thoughts and then invites any and all questions. "I am so impressed with how he listens with grace," Hoffman said.

Roelofs' ability to support and listen with grace doesn't stop with faculty and staff. He consistently made it a point to listen to and build relationships with students as well.

"Upon assuming my leadership role within the SGA," said Conner '23, Student Government Association president, "I was able to work more closely with Lyle both in campus-governance committees and during our monthly meetings. I found Lyle to be a great support system to get student initiatives through Berea's governance



The Berea College Farm Store is open year-round and provides a daily lunch menu prepared by students using fresh organic ingredients from the Berea College Farm.


system both in terms of providing advice and lending his approval.

"President Roelofs' biggest impact was bringing Berea back to its radical roots by re-emphasizing the legacy of John G. Fee and our founder's mission of opposing systems that breed social inequality," Conner continued. "He fundamentally helped move Berea forward, recommitting us to our legacy of radical inclusion by presiding over the expansion of Black student enrollment, the admission of DACA students and the creation of various cultural centers. The president has shown real leadership in helping shape Berea to be a more inclusive and progressive institution."

Since the beginning of his tenure, Roelofs has written monthly campus news emails to faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. That foundation was crucial when COVID-19 hit in 2020. During the rapidly changing early days of the pandemic, he ramped up to daily missives. "These communications were huge for me to keep up to date on what was happening and were enormously helpful for the community during a time of disruption," Hoffman said.

Communication professor Dr. Verlaine McDonald is impressed with how Roelofs approaches leadership with both humility and playfulness. She first experienced his humility while serving with him on the Strategic Planning Council. He dedicated his first semester with the group to listening. "He didn't come in telling us how he was going to fix us," she said. "It helped faculty and staff to feel that what we had to say and our experience was valuable."

Roelofs' jokes, mostly more likely to make one groan than laugh, are legendary around campus, where he shares them liberally in meetings and email updates. During one episode of fierce winter weather when nearby universities chose to close, Berea stayed open. He created a "winter skillz" email that snowballed; students responded with hilarious memes, after which he partnered with Marketing and Communications staff to produce a spoof video. One "skill": if students didn't have enough winter gear to stay warm, they could wrap a hand towel around their necks as a scarf. The school even created commemorative #winterskillz hand towels. "It became a running joke, and the students loved it," McDonald said. "His genuine warmth and good humor have been a comfort in various settings."

A way of thinking about the Seventh Great Commitment, first articulated during the re-envisioning process, is to ponder the question, "How, then, should we live?" In his presidency, Roelofs has attempted to live out an answer: by constructing a campus environment, both built and human, that is attentive, conscientious and people-centered, but doesn't take itself too seriously. 

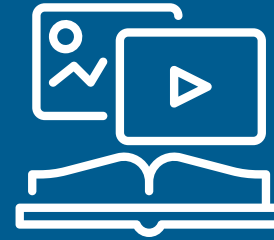


**ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:**  
President Roelofs loves connecting with students.

Scan the QR code to view a fun video on Winter Skillz he made in response to a series of memes created after an email to students.

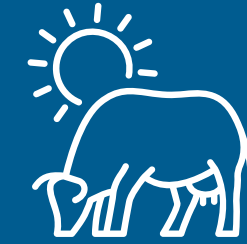


Berea College is ranked **No. 5** among liberal arts colleges – *Washington Monthly 2022 College Guide and Rankings*



**135**

Rooms with projectors/  
multimedia equipment.



**80-100**

Total head of cattle managed  
by the College Farm team  
entirely on pasture to  
produce grass-finished beef.



**200+**

Educational programs and  
presentations hosted by the  
Forestry Outreach Center  
since 2018.

**6** New buildings constructed in the last five years

- Forestry Outreach Center
- Middletown School House Annex II
- Margaret A. Cargill Natural Sciences and Health Building
- Danforth Residence Hall
- Kettering Residence Hall
- Facilities Management Complex

**4** Renovations completed in the last five years

- Classroom Building (1)
- Other Buildings/Areas (3)



Berea  
College is

**1 of 13**

private colleges  
and universities  
with a coveted

**Aaa**

debt  
rating.



This is the highest rating that Moody's designates.



The Carter G. Woodson  
Center hosted

**15 & 23**

in-person  
events

virtual  
events

in 2020 and 2021.



**\$75,000+**

invested in local farm  
purchases with 16 small  
producer independently-  
owned farms – including  
more than 4,000 pounds  
in Berea College Farm  
products.



**1,200**

The number of Estill County  
homes that will be powered  
by energy generated by  
the Matilda Hamilton Fee  
Hydroelectric Station.



# Roelofs' Reflections

## What is the best advice you've ever received as president of Berea College?

Berea College changes its president more than its president changes Berea College. For the tough moments, the best advice I received was from another president: "Try to think of what you would do if you were not scared."

## What was one of your best moments as president of Berea College?

There have been so many wonderful moments, most of them involving people, and so they are a little private. Some of the best public moments include

- Learning Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies would be willing to provide a 4:1 match up to \$40 million for the MAC building, enabling us to build the best science facilities of any college in the state.
- Shifting from mechanized logging to horse logging in the College Forest.
- Flipping the switch for the Matilda Hamilton Fee Hydroelectric Station at Lock 12 to begin generating electricity.
- The academic quality of Berea College beginning to be realized as we moved from No. 65 (2014-15) up first to No. 30 in the country in the *U.S. News and World Report* national liberal arts college rankings and then to No. 26 in the country for this year.

- Overcoming the endowment excise tax, which would have cost the College about \$1 million per year.

## What events do you most enjoy attending on campus each year?

Commencements, both December and May, are the most special.

## What would you like to be remembered for?

It was always my goal that on my departure, the College would be better able to sustain itself and its mission than when I arrived. If folks

agree that the College is in better shape now than 11 years ago, then I hope that is remembered.

## What are some of the student stories that have served as a continual reminder of the importance of this institution?

There are so many, but my favorite is Guinevere Biere. To read more about Guinevere's story, visit [berea.college/Roelofs-Reflections](http://berea.college/Roelofs-Reflections).

## What has been the most rewarding part of serving as Berea College president?

It has been such an honor to serve an institution that is truly unique in the country; any academic leader would love to have had that opportunity.

## What was one of the most difficult seasons of your presidency?

Well, dealing with COVID-19, which has involved so far 2 ½ years (= 10 seasons?), has been very challenging, but there have also been some tragedies and sharing the pain of those with families and friends of students and employees we lost was so much harder.

## What will you miss most about Berea?

It has been so very moving to see so many people—faculty, staff and students—working together to advance the most compelling mission in the country. We've also really loved getting to know so many generous and faithful donors and friends of the College.

## What is your advice for the next president?

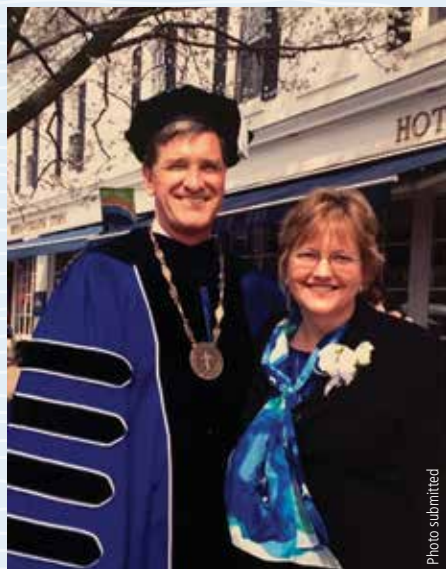
I hesitate to offer advice to Dr. Cheryl Nixon, who seems to be taking exactly the right approach to getting to know Berea. Rather, I will make myself totally available to her in the coming months to assist however I can, and beyond, too.

## What are you most looking forward to in retirement?

I have a lot of interests, and it's a pleasing prospect to have more time for them, and, of course, there are the grandchildren. 🐶

### ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:

Listen to more reflections from President Roelofs and see more pictures from his 11-year tenure at [berea.college/RoelofsReflects](http://berea.college/RoelofsReflects)





# Keeping the Presidential Trio Fit

By Kim Brown

On any given Tuesday or Thursday during the academic year, flashes of yellow and green may peek through the early morning fog along Main Street, mixing in with school buses dropping students off at Berea Community School and people driving to work. As those flecks of color make their way along the Artisan Trail, a closer look reveals T-shirt-clad students, faculty and staff who start their day twice a week with the Berea College President's Run/Walk Club.

An avid runner, President Lyle Roelofs established the club in 2012 as he began his tenure as the College's ninth president. He invited all members of the campus community and Berea-based alumni to join him, First Lady Laurie Roelofs and the presidential dog at the circular driveway at Seabury Center. Fueled by bananas and granola bars, the group sets out in the direction of the Kentucky Artisan Center at 7 a.m. Laurie Roelofs and the walkers reach Middletown School and head back to campus for their nearly two-mile walk. Lyle—accompanied by First Dog, Molly, early in the club's history, and now by Nellie—and the runners go about four miles, jogging past the Berea College Farm to the Kentucky Artisan Center before returning to campus.

"Lyle and I really enjoy the Run/Walk Club," said Laurie Roelofs. "It's been a great way for us to stay in shape and build relationships."

That's how Calvin Gross '86, director of library services at Berea, got to know the Roelofs. One of the most active participants in the Run/Walk Club, he began walking with Laurie in


the club's second year. Along the way, he lost 30 pounds and no longer needs the blood pressure medication he'd been taking for eight years.

"I think it's a wonderful thing," Gross said of the club. "I guess it sort of started off as a health initiative, but it's also become a social thing for me. There's a group of people that's almost always there."

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the connections and comradery formed among members of the club. After a few months apart, they were itching to get back to their morning walks and runs. Gross recalls meeting Laurie for walks around campus, wearing masks and maintaining a safe distance to comply with the College's social distancing guidelines. President Roelofs also found time to get out and run, and found a running partner in Caleb '23, a health and human performance major and philosophy minor from Anderson County, Ky.

"During the COVID semesters, when we were not meeting to run as a club, the president and I went on many runs together," said Caleb, who ran cross country in high school and joined the Run/Walk Club in 2018. "These (runs) were always fun and I enjoyed the time spent getting to know the president while—at the same time—getting in better shape." He said the added benefits included free running shoes and snacks, a good community of runners and walkers and learning about astronomy. During the fall months, the stars were still out at the start of each run/walk.

As the Roelofs prepare to retire from Berea College at the end of June, many

runners and walkers shared their hopes of the President's Run/Walk Club continuing as part of their impactful legacy in support of a healthy campus community. 





# Mrs. President

By Cora Allison '22

In July 2012, First Lady Laurie and President Lyle D. Roelofs, previous residents of Hamilton, N.Y., joined the Berea College community. Together they made the move from one college town to another as the president transitioned from serving as Colgate University's provost and dean of faculty to the Berea presidency.

"When Lyle was offered the presidency," Laurie Roelofs said, "the board

gave me the choice of working my own position or fulfilling a supportive role to my husband. We've always considered ourselves as a team, and we thought it was wonderful to be invited to work for the College in that sort of arrangement."

"Mrs. President," aptly named by Berea students, has been a pillar of compassion and support for the College. Among many things, she sits on the Students of Concern Committee,

comprised of those in leadership roles (student life, counseling, dean of the chapel, etc.) who identify and provide extra support for students in need.

In being accessible to the whole community—students, faculty and staff—the First Lady embodies the "Berea Family," disregarding hierarchy and offering advocacy and support wherever it is needed.

The Monarch Waystation and her support of Berea's butterfly populations is perhaps one of Mrs. Roelofs' most significant contributions to the campus. Many years ago, while teaching pre-K students and after noticing the heartbreaking annual decline of the monarch population, she decided to support their numbers by learning to raise them and teaching her young students about their fascinating life cycle.

"I know it's probably a drop in the bucket if I raise 200 monarchs every summer, but I hope eventually it adds up," Mrs. Roelofs said.

Thanks to her, Berea College is now home to three official Monarch Waystations, two additional milkweed patches and multiple pollinator gardens that provide nectar sources and safe breeding grounds for the local butterfly population and for those traveling through as they migrate north in the spring and south in the fall to their overwintering grounds. The largest and most visible waystation is on campus near Edwards Building and the Fee Glade, another lies behind the President's Home on campus, and a third is at the Boyd and Gaynell Fowler Child Development Lab (CDL). Mrs. Roelofs also continues to educate others about monarchs, including the CDL children and children from other schools as well as the students in Prof. Ron Rosen's Zoology 101 class,



Rehney Kimbangu '20

Laurie Roelofs has created Monarch butterfly waystations across Berea's campus.



Anna Jones '17

Mrs. President, Laurie Roelofs, enjoyed spending time experiencing unique parts of the campus environment alongside President Lyle Roelofs, such as joining the horses and the horse loggers out in Berea's 9,000-acre forest.

who have enjoyed joining her in collecting eggs at the campus waystation for raising as part of their lab experience.

Mrs. Roelofs, with the help of Rose Adams of the Grounds crew and assistance from the College Farm, also created a wildflower garden down on Alumni Field, which is visited every summer by lots of humans and winged insects.

As delightful as they are, the monarchs are not the only essential pollinator Mrs. Roelofs has been rehabilitating. With the support of John Paul DeJoria, co-founder of Paul Mitchell Systems and Patron Tequila, Berea has partnered with Grow Appalachia to become a certified Bee Campus under the auspices of the Xerces Society. This non-profit program encourages campuses to provide healthy habitats to support pollinators because they are essential for plants to grow. The College campus is pesticide- and herbicide-free and home to many native plant species, making it the perfect candidate for the program.

Mrs. Roelofs also goes the extra mile in protecting butterflies and bees and other pollinators. "I know I drive the groundskeepers crazy," she said, "because early in the spring there will be really tall grass outside the house, but I won't let them mow because of the spring beauties and dadelions that the butterflies need as do the bees."

A busy bee herself, she has not

stopped at supporting sustainability practices at the College. Mrs. Roelofs also plays a key role on the Frost Committee, named after Nellie Frost, third First Lady of Berea College, under whose leadership the Boone Tavern Hotel and Restaurant was originally built. The Frost Committee oversees the hotel and restaurant and contributes to supervisory and administrative decisions.

"It was a tough spell for the hospitality industry during the COVID-19 pandemic," Mrs. Roelofs said. "Hotels and restaurants were shutting down right and left, but we were determined to stay open to create a safe and clean space for travelers, and because we realized how hard it would be to restart operations if we ever closed down and lost our dedicated staff and regular clientele. We did have to close the restaurant to in-person dining, but we were able to keep it open and active serving take-out—locals will remember how popular that option was here in town—and room service, so that our visitors were well taken care of."

Although the First Lady hosts events, co-leads in the President's Walk/Run Club, plans dinners and entertainment for the Board of Trustees, sits on several important committees, attends Mountain Day and so many campus events religiously, supports her husband and (most would agree) truly runs the show behind the scenes, she is best known to students for her friendly



Laurie Roelofs is a faithful co-leader of the Berea College President's Run/Walk Club. She led numerous groups of students, faculty and staff on a two-mile walk most days that the club met.

interest and care for them.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, she and President Roelofs usually ate lunch in the Mountaineer Dining Hall on Mondays, inviting students to join them for fellowship, to share concerns or just to enjoy time together. Also, it wasn't uncommon for students to attend dinners and events hosted in the President's Home. The Student Government Association was invited every year to come over for hot chocolate and treats and to decorate the Christmas tree, and there were fun occasions when students cooked for the Roelofs, so they could enjoy a meal together. During the pandemic, Mrs. Roelofs carried on with her love and support at a safe distance—rather than students coming over to decorate the Christmas tree in the house, she placed a small tree and weather-proof ornaments outside on the deck for the students to decorate and for passers-by to enjoy.

In June, the College will say farewell to the Roelofs as they relocate to Michigan and begin a well-earned retirement. That will be hard for everyone concerned because there is mutual appreciation and much love between the campus and the Roelofs. "There is just something so special about Berea students," Mrs. Roelofs said. "They have shaped me in many ways and made me a better person; I will miss them SO much." ■



# Lyle Roelofs: A Presidential Report Card

By Jason Lee Miller

The ninth president of Berea College, Dr. Lyle D. Roelofs, will retire at the end of June, after 11 years of service to this unique and storied institution. During his tenure, Roelofs worked closely with several chairs of the Board of Trustees (BOT). We contacted them, and they have offered the following assessment of his presidency.

The first question, when assessing a president, is to ask what makes a good college president in the first place?

“Character,” said Elizabeth Culbreth

meets all the requirements.”

“A good college president, especially at Berea College, must have both cerebral and emotional intelligence,” said Stephanie Zeigler, the current BOT chair. “Lyle has a remarkably well-balanced mix of the two, which has enabled him not only to strengthen Berea College as an institution, but also to create strong relationships among his colleagues and students on campus as well as all those connected to the wider Berea community.”

Dr. David E. Shelton, chair from 2012 to 2014, said that in addition to the academic credentials, a good president has to be a good listener. “How do you listen to all the various polarities but yet lead from the center?” he asked. “Because there are so many forces, tensions on a college campus, you simply have to be able to be president of all of them, intelligently and respectfully dealing with those polarities. [Lyle Roelofs] did that very well.”

## Devotion to the Mission

The mission of Berea College has eight parts and is articulated as the Great Commitments. They include a commitment to educational opportunity for the economically disadvantaged, to the liberal arts, to the inclusive Christian values of love over hate and peace with justice, to the dignity of labor, to racial and gender equality, to supportive and sustainable living, and to serving Appalachia. Since their articulation in the 1960s, Berea College presidents

have promoted them.

“Berea College has just been blessed in the leadership of our presidents,” said Culbreth. “They have different personalities, but they have been individuals of professional and academic distinction. They have supported the commitments and the mission of the College and appreciated the circumstance that we have a number of pieces to our mission and sometimes they tend to pull against each other. But our presidents, including Lyle, have recognized that and done a good job of finding the way through.”

“The Great Commitments are our north star, and Lyle has always kept them in that important space,” Zeigler added.

Robert Yahng ’63, board chair from 2018 to 2021, said Roelofs has kept Berea students and the College’s mission foremost in his mind while bringing people to rally around them. “Lyle’s gotten his constituents to work together for a common mission,” Yahng said. “He has endeavored to shape the mission to reflect the time. He’s a hard man to replace.”

“[The next Berea College president] will have to continue to be the type of listener Lyle has been and never lose sight of what our mission is,” Shelton added. “I think another person can also learn how Lyle embedded himself into the Appalachian area early in his tenure to gain a really good understanding of what that’s about. But



Robert Yahng '63

Jennifer Lance '20

mostly to make sure that you understand and listen to faculty, staff and students in a way that can be translated into action items. Lyle has done well with that.”

## Steady Leadership

In early 2020, a global pandemic tested Roelofs’ mettle. The board chairs agree this was one of his shining moments.

“One of his greatest achievements was the leadership he [showed] during the pandemic,” Culbreth said. “I think that his early role in communicating with the campus community was just invaluable. It provided an amazing assurance to the wider community that the institution was going to be there and be supportive.

He was just steady throughout. When the pandemic itself began to ease and the world began to open up, his steady leadership continued.”

“Navigating all that happened with COVID was just stellar in terms of how he handled that,” Shelton

said. “He led us through that very well. That enabled him to amplify his strengths in terms of looking at facts and then moving in a direction that is good for all. He’s been very effective in his decision making. All that he’s about as a person, I think has manifested quite nicely into an effective role as president of Berea College.”

“Lyle provided great leadership during the pandemic, protecting all Bereans to the greatest extent possible while permitting continuation of the mission of the College,” Moses added.

“Lyle has remained steady since day one despite having to lead through one of the most challenging times higher ed has ever faced,” Zeigler said. “His communications continued to be thoughtful and clear, delivered directly and comprehensively. His decision making remained



Hal Moses '58

both rational and heartfelt, managing to focus on the big picture while also considering all the individuals who constitute and execute that big picture. He is a genuinely good human being, and his authenticity is palpable.”

“He’s kept the students and the members of the College community relatively safe from the ravages of the pandemic,” Yahng said. “And he also doesn’t shrink from making decisions.”

## Bringing People Together

Berea College has a lot of moving parts and many stakeholders. Whether fundraising, pitching new campus projects or rallying around a cause, the Board chairs agree Berea’s president must be able to bring people together.

“Lyle’s been able to really pull everybody together,” Yahng said. “If you talk to people on the faculty or within the administration or the students or the Board, you find a consensus that he’s done a good job. That’s something that I think is a testament to his ability. What underlies it is his ability and his willingness to listen to others.”

“What Lyle is doing with those essays that he does for the *Richmond Register*—he has a wonderful way of identifying pieces of our mission and

bringing them in those essays into the broader world so that people who are not part of the Berea College community can give consideration to the ideas that he’s presenting there,” Culbreth said.

“The completion of the Margaret A. Cargill Natural Sciences and Health Building has been transformative for Berea, and the construction of the two tech buildings will have similar effects,” Moses said.

“The success in identifying and raising funds for the Cargill building—that’s just a marvelous permanent resource that our campus has for students,” Culbreth added. “That’s an illustration of his commitment to our academic excellence and to maintaining Berea College’s very special role in higher education.”

“He has created the most diverse leadership team Berea has ever had and has been able to staff people in the best situation for their talents and the position’s needs,” Zeigler said. “Lyle has not only been able to connect on an everyday level around campus, for example with his running club, but he also has been integral with far-reaching efforts such as our hydroelectric station in support of Berea College and our commitments.”



Lacy Fields '21



Elizabeth Culbreth '64

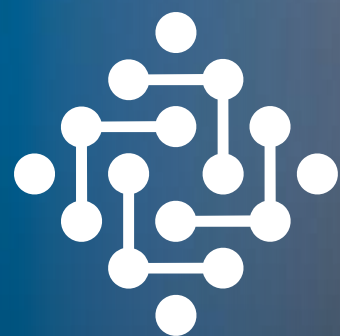
Jon Kemp '19



Stephanie Zeigler

Cara Paulik





# BUILDING A TECHNOLOGY FUTURE LIKE NO OTHER



Photo by Justin Skeens

**“A HALLMARK OF COMPUTER SCIENCE IS THAT IT IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING. OUR STUDENTS NEED STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES TO LEARN, AND TO HAVE LAB EXPERIENCES IN A SPACE THAT MIRRORS THE FUTURE.”**

– Scott Heggen, Associate Professor of Computer Science

Heggen and his colleagues in Berea's Technology and Design programs eagerly anticipate the greater impact Berea College students will be able to achieve after the completion of our two future-focused buildings, noting that “the new buildings will meet the need for an ever-evolving space and a curriculum that keeps pace and stays ahead of changes within the industry.”

Learn more about this initiative at <https://campaign.berea.edu>

## BEREA COLLEGE HONORS FOUR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### Sarah Culbreth '75 and Jeff Enge '86

Jeff Enge '86, a Minnesota native who grew up in the Chicago suburbs, developed a love of pottery in high school and nursed a dream of finding a partner and raising a family out in the country. He found that partner in Sarah Culbreth '76 when he went to work for her in a little pink house on Forest Street called Studio 105. Subsequently, they together established Tater Knob Pottery on a remote farm. After three decades of craft shows and features in the *New York Times*, *Southern Living*, and on HGTV, their reputation is well established, and people have been coming from all over for years to purchase Jeff's signature bells or Sarah's ornate lanterns.

Though you may find Tater Knob pottery at Neiman Marcus or Marshall Field's, you will not find it at Walmart, Amazon or even the Tater Knob website. Sales are made in person or over the phone. Each handmade item comes with a personal touch Sarah and Jeff insist upon.

Sarah came to Berea in the early 1970s from North Carolina, the daughter of a Methodist minister, her hands already made dexterous from playing the piano and flute. She began to matriculate as an art major in 1971. At 17, she had no plans to become a potter. She took a job at Boone Tavern until she watched an African woman spin pots in Alumni Field and became mesmerized by the process. Her sophomore year, she joined the pottery program.

Jeff chose Berea College over schools like the Kansas City and Chicago Art Institutes specifically for the pottery apprenticeship

program. By the time he finished his art degree in 1986, he already had 10 years of experience shaping clay into works of art. This experience was helpful in convincing Sarah to let him come work for her. Side by side, they put in 16-hour days, throwing pots of all kinds.

More than three decades later, their son, David, and daughter-in-law, Samantha Lyons Enge '12, have joined them in the family business, and their 3-year-old grandson, Jordan Lee, is already learning to spin the wheel.

### Chris Thomas Hayes '06

Chris Hayes '06 is an actor and puppeteer currently performing on Sesame Street, where he first debuted in 2016. He majored in theatre at Berea College, where he met his wife, Greta Hayes '10, and honed the passion for acting and puppetry that drove his career pursuits.

After graduating, Hayes toured with the Madcap Puppets theatre company out of Cincinnati. After a couple of seasons there, he moved to Atlanta to pursue puppet and non-puppet acting. Hayes also began performing improv professionally and working at the Center for Puppetry Arts.

After several years of acting and creating, Hayes was invited to attend a three-day Sesame Street puppeteer workshop in New York and learn the Muppet style of performing. Afterward, he was invited to assist and perform background characters on the show.

By 2019, Hayes was cast as Hoots the Owl for the show's 50th anniversary. In 2021, a new Sesame Street character was created—Elijah, a Black meteorologist, husband and father who


discusses skin color and its meanings with his son, Wes, and his pal, Elmo. The series, *Coming Together*, teaches children about race in an age-appropriate manner.

### Dr. Robert Stafford '89

Dr. Robert Stafford '89 grew up in Camargo, Ky. He earned his B.A. in economics from Berea College. He went on to earn his master's degree in education and Rank I in education administration from the University of Kentucky and Ed.D. in education from Northern Kentucky University. He started his teaching career at Maurice Bowling Middle School in Owen County and worked his way up from teacher to principal to his current position as superintendent in Owen County Schools. He is also the vice president of the Owen County Chamber of Commerce, a member of Owenton Rotary Club and Owen County Drug Prevention Coalition.

As the superintendent of Owen County Schools, Dr. Stafford is committed to improving educational opportunities for rural children. Under his leadership, the school district bolstered mental health services to protect at-risk children.

Stafford also co-founded the iLEAD Academy in Carrollton, Ky., a nationally recognized institution that lets students design their learning experiences, distinct from the traditional school model.

He is married to Dr. Jennifer Stafford and is father to Tylor and Briton. 

For more on each award recipient, visit [bera.college/2022-Alumni-Awards](https://bera.college/2022-Alumni-Awards)



Crystal Wylie '05



Crystal Wylie '05



Crystal Wylie '05



## Homecoming 2022

Homecoming 2022 brought alumni back to Berea for the first time in three years. The campus community welcomed home hundreds of alumni and guests with more than 50 receptions, performances and activities. Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2023, scheduled for Nov. 17-19.



Berea's 2022 Homecoming Court was a stunning representation of the student body. Junior Jamal "Jimmy" was crowned Berea Royalty during the coronation ceremony conducted at halftime of the men's basketball game.

Ray Davis '11



Dozens of students, faculty and staff participated in a frigid 5K early on Saturday morning, sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Learning through Service (CELS).



Berea's mascot, Blue, joined alumni and students in line dances during the block party on Friday night.



Members of the Class of 2012 gather for a picture at the alumni class reunion reception at Boone Tavern Hotel and Restaurant.



The street in front of College Square was filled with students dancing the night away at the block party.



Members of the Class of 2007 enjoyed catching up with each other at the alumni class reunion reception.



Berea College's cheerleading squad gets the crowd involved in cheering on the Mountaineers.

Thomas Moonjeli '23



Sophomore Marquis shoots a jump shot during the homecoming basketball game. Mackey scored 12 points and had two rebounds in the Nov. 19 game against Asbury University.

Amir Aref '25



Black Music Ensemble President Tia Bunton '22 sang in one of her final BME performances before graduating in December 2022.

Thomas Moonjeli '23



Dwayne Compton '01, Scott Darst '02 and Jarel Jackson '02 snap a quick picture at the alumni reception.

Crystal Wylie '05



Sophomores Quincey and Jakeisha were crowned king and queen at the 2022 Black Student Union pageant. Jakeisha expressed her extreme excitement at sharing the honor with one of her closest friends.

Brooklyn Kenney



The Berea men's team played Asbury University for the homecoming game. The Mountaineers fought hard but came up short, losing to the Eagles 73-81.

Thomas Moonjeli '23



All photos by Tyler Rocquemore '22



L-R: John Harmon, John Payne



First row (L-R): Younetta Sleet, Christel Pressley Hollis, Shonda Miller Wahlert Second row (L-R): Wayne Clemons, Melonie Napier Third row (L-R): John Franklin, Michael Napier



First row (L-R): Jessica Reeves Clemons, Mandy Miller Lanham, Anne Kinton Gruber, Rick Witherite Second row (L-R): James Carrier, Patrick Lanham, Jim Ambs, Chris Schill



First row (L-R): Susan Jones English, Jarel Jackson (holding funeral program for Jason Woodard Oden, who died in 2021), Kiki Anderson Ramsey, Marc Henderson, Stephanie Smith Henderson, Tim Washington Second row (L-R): Stefanie Wilson Manes, Melissa McDonald, Joel Wilson, Fred Odago, Scott Darst





**First row:** Shawn Kennedy **Second row (L-R):** Samantha Bolin Bryson, Holly Branscum, Princess Nash, Toni Nichols, Taylor Ballinger **Third row (L-R):** Mary Rush Galloway, Anna Brookshire Shell, Lederrick Wesley, Mark Crabeels



**First row (L-R):** Shadia Prater, Taylor Caldwell Santos with Aaliyah Grace Santos, Felicia Johnson, Katherine Collins, Bria Williams **Second row (L-R):** John Hellrung, Gerardo Ivan Santos, Jessica Vinson **Third row (L-R):** Kerry Baird, Jessica Lance Watson, Derrick Lisanby, Mercedes Stanfield **Fourth row (L-R):** Khafer Rama, Allison Fitson, Steffy Molina, Quinten Lambert **Fifth row:** Kristian Toole



**First row (L-R):** Da-Vid Martin, Jeritta Gilbert, Hope Reuschel, James Kent Pugh **Second row (L-R):** Danielle Goldman-Musser, Rachael Parker, Phyo Zin, Erica Whitaker, Hodari Sadiki James **Third row (L-R):** Gerald Fitts, Laura Bellnier **Fourth row (L-R):** Leenisha Marks, Kelly Davis, David Bellnier, Lindsey Davis Dyer, Courtney Matthews, Jamie Walker **Fifth row (L-R):** Jonathan Davis, Elyse Budkie, Ana Megrelishvili, Rachel Brock McNulty, Tasha Roop Hackett, Sarah Martin, Holly Korb Rabnott **Seventh row (L-R):** Travis Kreimer, Jamar Perry, Jamond Perry, Channing Francis, Brett Roddy, Justin Martin



**L-R:** Tyler Rocquemore, Marlene Michel



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

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

## 1947

**Gene Barber**, 97, lives in Hilo, Hawaii. He shares that in November 1943 he was a V-12 sailor studying engineering at University of Louisville. On Nov. 2, 1945, he was commissioned “Ensign” at a midshipmen school on Columbia University’s campus. That school, USNRMS NY, commissioned some 24,000 men, largely from V-12 units. In the 1990s, many veterans of WWII started having annual reunions. In 1996, Barber joined his reunion group. In 1997, he became the editor for their group of former midshipmen e-newsletter. In the following years he produced more than 800 e-mailed editions for this group. His daughter has put them all in an archive where they are stored in a chronicle or inverse order. By now death has claimed almost all members. In some edition names, “am” stands for “Ancient Mariner.” Early issues had other names like “Sunday Log,” and contained a lot of sea stories. The entire archive may be read, searched or copied here: <https://bit.ly/3SK27X5>



## 1952

**Bill** and **Rose Ramsay**, who met as Berea College students, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Sept. 7, 2022. They were married in Danforth Chapel in 1952. They lived in Berea from 1970 to 1995, while Bill served as dean of Labor and Student Life. After retirement and 11 years in South Carolina, they moved back “home” to Berea in 2006. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3fnheYK>



## 1955

**Margaret Wetzel** is 88 and enjoying life.

## 1958

**Mary Nell Hall Malher** moved to a senior apartment facility.

## 1961

**Blue Wooldridge** received the Gloria Hobson Nordin Social Equity award. He was honored for his lifelong devotion to social equity, diversity and social justice.

## 1962

**Celia Hooper Miles** has published her 11th novel, the last in the series of cozy, grist mill mysteries, all set in western North Carolina. “The Secret at the Little Lost Mill” deals with the most primitive of water-powered mills with a horizontal, in-stream wheel. All books are available on Kindle (e-book), and this one and others are available in paperback on Amazon. All books are available from the author (with pleasure). [www.celiamiles.com](http://www.celiamiles.com)



## 1966

**Col. Stanley (Stan) Bishop**, retired U.S. Air Force colonel and combat pilot, has written a book about his and his siblings’ experiences growing up in rural North Carolina during the 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s titled “Reollections: Memories From My Youth.” He had a great time recalling and writing about those years and reminisces from time to time about how it was back then—poor, large family, church-going, farming the land, plowing with a mule and more. He and his wife live in Florida.

## 1968

**Barbara Fleming** has released the second issue of her book “Desperately Searching for Higher Education Among the Ruins of the Great Society,” in which she compares the outcome of post-secondary education by race and concludes that African American students are getting the worst education of any group in the nation. A must-read for anyone interested in higher education today. The book is now available on Amazon.



**Dr. Patricia A. Sanders**, a proud graduate of the Berea College Foundation school, had a biographic article about her life published by the University of South Alabama. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3FpmHZI>

## 1972

**Bill Weir** is an accomplished travel writer and photographer. He is well known among other world-class bicycle tourists. He has maintained a website filled with wonderfully detailed stories and photos. His friends, Cat and Pat Patterson, share this short video introduction and hope it will be helpful to classmates. They write, “Bill is very quiet and unassuming. Of all the life paths, he certainly chose an interesting one, the bike paths of the world.” Watch here: <https://bit.ly/3TRL7Q3>

## 1977

**Šumit Ganguly** became a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University on Sept. 1, 2022. This summer, he will be a DAAD (German academic exchange) professor at the University of Heidelberg, Germany.

## 1978

**Dr. William P. Powers (Bill)**, retired in April 2022 after practicing medicine in the east Tennessee area for more than 35 years. He is a 1982 graduate of the UK College of Medicine, completed his residency and fellowship in internal medicine and pulmonary/critical care at the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences in Memphis, and served as chief of staff at East Tennessee Baptist Hospital in 1999. He is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Theresa, their three children, and one lovely granddaughter, Hadley. Bill can be reached at [williamppowers@gmail.com](mailto:williamppowers@gmail.com).

## 1979

Jamie Stone is enjoying retirement from Sphere One, Inc., where he was director of human resources and environmental, health and safety. He also managed Berea College broomcraft from 1980 to 1985. He is looking forward to spending

time at piano, photography, cooking, traveling and spending more time with his beautiful wife, **Cathy Williams Stone ’84**.



**Dr. Patricia C. Watson** recently announced the release of her non-fiction, faith-based book “You Matter to God,” an inspirational, Christmas-themed book. Described as “an encouragement to readers,” the book is available at Amazon, Walmart, eBay, Barnes & Noble and other bookstores. Dr. Watson has retired from the Floyd County School District and continues to work there part-time, guiding work with writing instruction and children’s programs.

## 1980

**Steve Fouts** retired from the Teachers’ Retirement System of Kentucky in Frankfort on July 1, 2022, after 30.5 years of service.

**Lana Flynn Richmond** has won many awards, including enshrinement in Missouri Sports Hall of Fame 2016 as NCAA Division 1 softball coach, Pulaski County Kentucky School Hall of Fame 2018, Southeast Missouri State University Hall of Fame 2020, National Fastpitch Coaches Association 900-win Milestone 2018, OVC Softball Coach of Year—five times. Flynn retired after a 32-year NCAA D1 coaching career. She is originally from Somerset, Ky., and married to Tim Richmond. She has one daughter, Jordyn, who currently resides in Cape Girardeau, Mo.



## 1981

**Susan Wethington Foster** and husband, Gary Maxwell Foster, are delighted to announce the birth of their first grandchild. John Maxwell Foster was born on July 9, 2022. He and his parents, Nathan and Gabrielle Capriotti Foster, reside in Morgantown, W.Va., and the proud grandparents live near Buckhannon, W.Va.—close enough for frequent visits!

## 1983

**Nicky Borghardt Rosenbluth** recently moved to Phoenix, Ariz., with her family to assume the role of vice president of leadership development for the Valley of the Sun YMCA.



## 1991

**Adrian Paul Stevens** was appointed associate vice president for philanthropic giving at California State University. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3yO48v5>

## 1993

**Myra Denise Sensabaugh Little** earned a promotion to senior accountant at Ballad Health, a hospital system serving northeast Tennessee and southwest Virginia.

## 1994

**Amy Smith Brandum** and **William T. Brandum** celebrated their ninth wedding anniversary in October. Will is a dental technician and part-time artist. Amy is a full-time artist working in a variety of media including painting, jewelry and weaving, the latter of which she learned at Berea. Her work can be viewed at [www.amybrandum.com](http://www.amybrandum.com). They reside in Tennessee with three teenagers and five cats.

**Jeremy Heidt** led the Tennessee Housing Development Agency’s (THDA) Industry and Governmental Affairs division to be selected as a 2022 Fair Housing award recipient by the Association of Real Estate License Law Officials (ARELLO) for the agency’s one-hour continuing education course titled Increasing Minority Homeownership. They accepted the award Aug. 31, 2022, at ARELLO’s national conference in Nashville. THDA was nominated by Ron White, education director of the Tennessee Real Estate Commission. ARELLO is an international membership-based organization with a mission to support jurisdictions in the administration and enforcement of their real-estate license laws.



## 1995

**Kathryn Coughlin** was elected to her town’s select board, the executive branch of town government, for a three-year term beginning in March 2022. She continues to serve as an elected Natick, Mass. town meeting member (the legislative branch).

## 1997

**MARRIED: Anne Elizabeth Kinton Gruber** married a wonderful man in South Bend, Indiana in June 2022.



## 1998

**Laurie Bradshaw Rowland** was chosen as the Cleveland State Community College distinguished faculty of 2022 on May 6, 2022. She is currently the chair of the Humanities Department, faculty senate president, communication studies professor and speech and debate coach of the No. 1 debate team in Tennessee.

## 1999

**Kenya Arrington Woods** was thrilled and honored to be in TOPS Magazine’s 50 under 50 edition. Boutique, personalized, professional, top quality, client-oriented service is the heart of her real estate brokerage. Let her put her experience, work ethic and heart to work for you! If you’re planning to buy, build or sell, call her.



## 2001

**Shawn Adkins** earned his Doctor of Education degree in educational practice and leadership from the University of North Dakota on May 14, 2022. His dissertation “The Z Factor: Generation Z and the Perspectives of Recruitment Professionals on Sustaining Small Private Liberal Arts Institutions During a Decade of Expected Decline in Higher Education Enrollment” can be found on ProQuest, Google Scholar and the University of North Dakota’s website. Dr. Adkins is the director of the Center for Student Success for undergraduate programs at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He has been married to Brent since 2017 and has resided in Cincinnati, Ohio since 2002.





## 2004

**Jessica Richardson Webb** was named publisher/editor of *Smoky Mountain Times*, a weekly newspaper in Bryson City, N.C., on July 4, 2022. She has worked for the company since December 2010. She lives in Whittier, N.C., with her husband, **Luke Webb '08**. The couple also celebrated 15 years of marriage on July 7, 2022.

## 2010

**Donovan Andreas Harrison-Calicker** was elected seventh president of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials - Jacksonville. It is a two-year term and the organization focuses on ensuring a level playing field for minorities in the transportation industry. Visit [www.comtojax.org](http://www.comtojax.org) to learn more



**DJ Gene Swiney** has been married to his beautiful wife since 2012 and is a special education teacher.

## 2013

**Erica Lynne Cook** started working at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning as an AmeriCorps VISTA in 2014 and then served as the children's outreach and volunteer coordinator. In March 2022, she became the center's marketing and communications director. The Carnegie Center is an educational and literary arts nonprofit in Lexington dedicated to empowering people to explore and express their voices.



**BIRTH:** twins, Ray and Janice Ranta, born to **Stacey Roberts Ranta** on Nov. 11, 2021. Janice was named in honor of longtime Berea College professor, Dr. Janice Burdette Blythe, of the Child and Family Studies department, who passed away in 2019.



## 2014

**BIRTH:** a daughter, Alessandra Williams, born to **Ariel Owens Williams** and Brandon Williams on April 25, 2022.



## 2015

**Daniel Dennert** is putting his Berea College arts training to work as he returns home to California and takes on a new position as arts program curator for San Diego International Airport. He oversees the performing and temporary exhibition programs. These initiatives enhance the experience of around 25 million travelers a year by creating unexpected encounters with art.

**MARRIED:** **Aaron Lang** to **Candace Moberly**, on June 11, 2022 at the Indian Fort Amphitheater, with a reception at the Forestry Outreach Center. The couple plans on residing in Berea.



## 2016

**BIRTH:** a son, James Francis "Frankie" Grimm, was born to **Hannah Storey Grimm** and Eric Grimm in December 2021.



## 2019

**Noah Hughes** has been named the director of athletics communication at Spalding University in Louisville, Ky. He will lead all day-to-day operations of the athletics communication office and assist in event management. As part of his duties, Hughes will also oversee all website maintenance of [www.SpaldingAthletics.com](http://www.SpaldingAthletics.com) and manage the department's social media presence on all platforms.



## 2020

**Sarah Deal** has acquired the new position of family and consumer sciences extension agent in Lawrence County, Ky. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in child and family studies (CFS) with a concentration in nutrition in fall 2020. She is a first-generation college graduate from Wole County, Ky. She would like to give special thanks to Dr. Neil Mecham and Dr. Margaret Dotson of the CFS department for their guidance and support throughout her time at Berea College. Deal looks forward to a career serving the community, especially in eastern Kentucky.



# BEREA COLLEGE

## Welcoming a New President

*A perfect fit for Berea's beloved community*



Dr. Cheryl L. Nixon was unanimously selected by the Berea College Board of Trustees to be the College's 10th president, the first woman to serve in the role. She will begin her tenure as president on July 1, 2023, following the retirement of President Lyle D. Roelofs.

Dr. Nixon's career has been dedicated to providing access to educational excellence. She is a passionate advocate for educational opportunity and equity, as demonstrated by her work as provost at Fort Lewis College, the most diverse public liberal arts college in the country, and associate provost at the University of Massachusetts Boston, the third most diverse four-year institution in the country. Dedicated to educating underserved populations, Nixon worked with colleagues and students at Fort Lewis College to create a "community of care" that honored Native American students' concept of kinship, or *k'í* in Navajo. This makes her a unique fit for Berea's "beloved community" based upon the "kinship of all people," as expressed by Berea's motto and its Great Commitments. By creating programs that enact the transformative power of the liberal arts, she has helped students with wide-ranging interests and abilities feel welcomed into and inspired by the world of ideas.

Nixon earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in English from Harvard University and her B.A. in English and Political Science (summa cum laude) from Tufts University. Her scholarship focuses on the invention of the novel in the 18th century.

She currently serves as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Fort Lewis College, where she has overseen the creation of a new Academic Hub focused on student success. The Hub provides academic support such as tutoring while also providing academic inspiration through undergraduate research, career design and place-based learning. With grants from the Department of Education, Colorado Governor's office and the Mellon, Teagle and El Pomar Foundations, she has worked with faculty and staff to build new

pathways into environmental education, expand Native American and Indigenous studies and create summer programs that emphasize learning cohorts.

"Dr. Nixon's background, knowledge, experience and presence positions her to effectively fit and collaboratively lead current and future expressions of our Great Commitments and mission," said Presidential Search Committee Co-chair Dr. David Shelton '69.

Prior to working at Fort Lewis College, she served as associate provost at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she was previously chair of the English Department.

A hallmark of her work has been building academic collaborations that benefit underserved populations. She has spearheaded the launch of a new collaborative nursing program with the University of Colorado College of Nursing that features community-centered approaches to rural nursing and Indigenous approaches to health. As the lead for Colorado's largest Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) grant, she helped design the Southwest Colorado Educational Collaborative, which creates pathways from regional rural high schools into higher education. In addition, an Equity Transfer Initiative partnership with San Juan College in New Mexico is strengthening transfer pathways from two-year to four-year college for underrepresented students.

"Our president must be a true believer and advocate for equality, access and the transformational power of education," said Board of Trustees Chair Stephanie B. Zeigler. "I'm deeply pleased to say Dr. Cheryl Nixon is all of that and more."

Dr. Nixon is married to Tim Monroe, who serves as the North American executive director of El Hogar Ministries, an organization providing homes and educational opportunities for up to 250 students in Honduras living in extremely impoverished and vulnerable circumstances. The couple has an adult son.

To read more visit [www.berea.edu/presidential-announcement](http://www.berea.edu/presidential-announcement).



**Corrections in the Summer 2022 Magazine**  
**Wes Holsapple ‘58** was incorrectly deceased. He is alive and well.

**Faye Barry ‘16** was incorrectly deceased. She is alive and well.

Staff & Faculty

**Dr. James Dreiling**  
Assistant Professor of Music (2016-2022)  
Aug. 19, 2022

**Helen Matthews Lewis**  
Director of Loyal Jones Appalachian Center (1993-1995)  
Sept. 4, 2022

**Mary McNeil Nash ‘52**  
Berea College Assistant Dean of Students & Head Resident for Pearson’s Hall (1983-1996)  
Sept. 17, 2022

**Dr. Bill Stolte**  
Dean & Academic Vice President (1970-1999)  
Aug. 26, 2022

**Dr. James Yount**  
Technology & Applied Design (1979-2006)  
May 3, 2022

1940s

**Kathleen Kincaid Shaw ‘40**  
May 26, 2022

**Oswald J. Scott Fd ‘41**  
Jan. 11, 2022

**William Earl Adams ‘43**  
June 28, 2022

**Eldred Pennington Craine Acad ‘40, ‘44**  
Obituary unavailable

**Ruth E. Deck ‘44**  
April 1, 2022

**Ruby Napier Evans ‘44**  
June 11, 2022

**Sara Rudd Nickell ‘44**  
Aug. 22, 2022

**Eloise Loftis Woodruff ‘44**  
May 24, 2022

**Lucille Holmes Gibson ‘45**  
May 14, 2022

**Andrew Fisher Whitney Navy V-12 ‘45**  
Jan. 27, 2017

**B. Ruth Salisbury Drahota ‘46**  
Oct. 21, 2021

**Cecil R. Jones ‘46**  
Jan. 6, 2018

**Joseph E. Hale ‘47**  
June 28, 2022

**Mollye Lovelace McKenzie Acad ‘47**  
June 14, 2022

**Sammye Sturdivant McLean ‘47**  
April 11, 2022

**Rita Ritchie Farley ‘48**  
June 7, 2022

**Marian Van Winkle Presnell ‘48**  
June 27, 2022

**Joyce E. Reedy ‘48**  
May 30, 2022

**Joe Y. Pope ‘49**  
July 22, 2019

**Mary Alice Smith ‘49**  
March 28, 2019

**Patricia Prater Wickerham ‘49**  
March 25, 2022

**Dr. Burgin H. Wood ‘49**  
Jan. 4, 2018

1950s

**Pauline Deal Gammon ‘50**  
July 26, 2022

Dr. W. R. Strong  
**Spouse of Effie Taylor Strong ‘50**  
March 22, 2022

**Earl Todd ‘50**  
Nov. 4, 2017

**Sue Hodges Greene Fd ‘51**  
June 8, 2022

**Margie Lewis Hammond ‘51**  
July 25, 2022

**Arthur L. Haynes ‘51**  
May 16, 2022

**Nell Jean Lusk McDarris ‘51**  
Aug. 10, 2022

**Dr. Ted Smith ‘51**  
July 4, 2022

**Dr. Edsel T. Godbey ‘52**  
June 15, 2022

**Nadene Wade May Fd ‘48, ‘52**  
April 24, 2022

**Mary McNeil Nash ‘52**  
Sept. 17, 2022

**Glenn Conn**  
Spouse of **Ruth Brantley Conn ‘53**  
June 22, 2022

**Edward Ray Dowdy ‘53**  
June 23, 2017

**Shirley Wheeler Einem ‘53**  
June 18, 2022

**Leona Sutherland Finch ‘53**  
Aug. 5, 2022

**Dr. Billy W. Friar ‘53**  
Obituary Unavailable

**Sarah Anderson Helton ‘53**  
Feb. 2, 2022

**Albert VanHorn ‘53**  
May 9, 2018

**Wilda Wilson ‘53**  
May 22, 2022

**William Lyn Claybrook ‘54**  
June 12, 2022

**Corine Alley Hegwer ‘54**  
Aug. 22, 2022

**Dr. Kenneth D. Israel ‘54**  
May 14, 2022

**Nancy Hull Kalfsbeek Fd ‘54**  
Aug. 2, 2022

**Geraldine McGuire Fd ‘54**  
April 2, 2020

**Harold Meeks ‘54**  
June 10, 2017

**Man-Chong Wong ‘54**  
May 13, 2022

**Betty Parker Johnston ‘55**  
May 13, 2022

**Dr. Ernest P. Lane ‘55**  
June 3, 2022

**Eugene Lovely ‘55**  
April 27, 2022

**Rubynelle Waldrop Thyne ‘56**  
Obituary Unavailable

**Dr. Harry Ruff White ‘56**  
June 26, 2022

**Doris Kirk Bailes ‘57**  
April 7, 2022

**Jean Janes ‘57**  
March 28, 2021

**Judith M. Parrish**  
Spouse of **Gerald Parrish ‘57**  
Nov. 1, 2020

**Dr. Richard Kelley Bowling ‘58**  
June 18, 2022

**Edwina Ward Burton ‘58**  
April 8, 2022

**Jewell Cardwell Field ‘58**  
June 11, 2022

**William T. Gilpin ‘58**  
Aug. 4, 2019

**Ernest L. Smith ‘58**  
Sept. 13, 2019

**Harold Denton ‘59**  
Aug. 17, 2018

**Weldon Haddix ‘59**  
Nov. 13, 2021

**Bonnie F. Smith Keith Fd ‘59**  
Sept. 27, 2019

1960s

**Nancy Due Johnson ‘60**  
July 4, 2022

**J. Ellen Presnell Fd ‘60**  
Feb. 29, 2020

**Julia Hale Tolliver ‘60**  
Dec. 18, 2020

**Robert B. Bennette ‘61**  
Nov. 8, 2021

**Rev. Charles L. Bowyer ‘61**  
May 5, 2022

**Pauline Hunt Flores ‘61**  
March 4, 2018

**Elizabeth Holthaus Fd ‘57, ‘61**  
Nov. 28, 2020

**Thelma Miller Klich ‘61**  
Aug. 13, 2022

**Barbara Kathleen Prince ‘61**  
Aug. 19, 2022

**Alice Caswell Statham ‘61**  
Aug. 18, 2022

**Bobbie Asher Baker ‘62**  
June 8, 2020

**Dr. Carl H. Boatright ‘62**  
Obituary unavailable

**Peggy Wilkerson Boatright ‘62**  
Jan. 28, 2021

**Ernest Clyde Bourne, Jr. Fd ‘59, ‘62**  
Jan. 5, 2022

**Dr. Emanuel H. Rader‘62**  
May 25, 2022

**David B. Bobbitt ‘63**  
May 11, 2022

**Mary Rose Deaton Fd ‘63**  
Feb. 25, 2022

**Judith Myers Rose ‘63**  
July 17, 2022

**Carl Emerson Wilson ‘64**  
Nov. 27, 2021

**Ruth Anne Hopkins Zajdel Fd ‘64**  
Aug. 18, 2022

**Sgt. W. Doug Howard Fd ‘65**  
April 5, 2022

**Barbara Cranford Rhymes ‘65**  
March 13, 2020

**Curtis N. Rowe ‘65**  
July 1, 2022

**James R. Shaw ‘65**  
April 13, 2022

**Clarence W. Adkins ‘66**  
April 10, 2022

**Dr. Ira James Bates ‘66**  
Aug. 2, 2022

**John G. Moore ‘66**  
May 20, 2022

**Peggy Baird Murray ‘66**  
June 15, 2022

**Laura McIntosh Deck ‘67**  
May 3, 2022

**Carolyn Jackson Ferguson ‘68**  
June 28, 2022

**Terry L. Lindsey ‘68**  
Feb. 21, 2021

**Steve M. Stewart ‘68**  
July 16, 2022

**Annette C. Boles**  
Spouse of **Col. Wayne Reece Boles ‘69**  
Obituary unavailable

**Luther Davidson ‘69**  
April 5, 2022

1970s

**Mary Adkins Roman ‘72**  
July 23, 2022

**Anndrena Belcher ‘73**  
Obituary unavailable

**Juanita Curry McNew ‘74**  
July 27, 2022

**John William Godby ‘75**  
June 20, 2022

**Juanita Spratling Hawkins ‘77**  
Aug. 9, 2022

**David Dennon Crandall ‘79**  
July 16, 2022

1980s

**Ted Bolt ‘81**  
Oct. 12, 2020

**John Schultz ‘83**  
June 23, 2021

**John Paul Stone ‘83**  
May 21, 2022

**John Humphries ‘84**  
July 10, 2019

1990s

**John Joseph Paugstat ‘90**  
April 8, 2022

**Judy Gail Ball ‘92**  
Feb. 20, 2020

**Kevin Bruster ‘95**  
Nov. 29, 2018

**Tracy Stoner Curry ‘95**  
Sept. 18, 2018

**Robert G. Andrews ‘99**  
May 20, 2017

**Sonny Nathan James Lewis ‘99**  
Jan. 9, 2021

2000s

**Jason Woodard Oden ‘02**  
Nov. 29, 2021

**Rachel Anne Turnage ‘02**  
June 29, 2018

**Richard Mark Curtis, Jr. ‘05**  
Feb. 23, 2022

**Andrew Milburn Hall ‘05**  
May 13, 2022

**Janey Lynn Boehm ‘06**  
Dec. 31, 2020

Read full obituaries on our website  
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THE LOG HOUSE CRAFT GALLERY  
IS PROUD TO PRESENT OUR  
NEW LINE OF GOURMET SPICES:  
*EPICUREAN DELIGHTS.*

# Log House

## CRAFT GALLERY

*Epicurean Delights*

As a retailer of high-end kitchen goods, we are delighted to bring you a brand new line of spices. Epicurean Delights is a line of single and blended spices that cooks will love. Our selection includes spice blends for meats, salads, soups and more. Once you try one, you'll want them all. Make room in your pantry!