

BEREA COLLEGE

MAGAZINE

BE THE GOOD

SPRING 2025 Volume 95 Number 4

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Berea College Magazine (ISSN 1539-7394) is published quarterly for Berea College alumni and friends by the Berea College Marketing & Communications Department. Periodicals postage at Berea, KY, and additional mailing offices.

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

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

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■ Dr. Cheryl Nixon captures the fun of a bonfire as she and students celebrate the first All Peoples of the Earth Day on April 1. Functioning like a spring Mountain Day, All Peoples of the Earth Day encourages the campus community to get outside, connect with nature, create new relationships and celebrate the joy of ushering in a new season. See the event through the President's eyes on her Instagram [@bereapresident](#).

Photo by Ehku Say '26



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About the cover: The heart of Berea is captured in people coming together and sharing their passion for service. The cover features students K-lord '27 and Bernice '25 forming a heart, a nod to the Winter 2024 cover where two students' hands symbolized the love and service of Bereans worldwide.

Photo by Jayla Leavell '25.

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Photo by Brooklynn Kenney

So Many Stories to Tell

Even this issue doesn't have space for all the stories we wanted to share.

VISIT:

<https://magazine.berea.edu> to find additional stories about Judge John Graham '85 and Sophia Riehemann '15.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Berea Alumni and Friends,

In our Winter 2024 issue, we shared inspiring, motivational and downright feel-good stories about the impact Bereans make worldwide. In that issue, I said, “We could never capture every selfless act, altruistic initiative or others-focused program that has originated from the heart of thousands of Bereans for generations.” What you all don't see are the dozens and dozens of stories that come across my desk that deserve to be shared, bragged on and shouted from the rooftops. As I filed so many of those away after curating the winter “Berea in Service and Love” issue, I knew I would revisit that theme time and again—and never grow weary of doing so.

Whether it's someone putting their life on hold to uplift a community devastated by flooding, another committed to supporting marginalized people around the globe whose stories echo their own experience, or a student who creates educational opportunities for girls when his country sees no value in them—Bereans see the good missing in the world and fill it with their knowledge, skills and compassion. That's just what we do.

As you read this issue, you'll get another small sample of the heart of Berea going out and not returning void—whether across the globe or right here in Appalachia to which Berea has always been committed. Three Appalachian students are showcased alongside alumnus Robert Stafford '89, who rallied for rural education and helped create the Kentucky Rural Education Association.

There can feel like a shortage today of happy, healthy, joyful stories to share. But there is no shortage of good work and transformative action flowing from the lives of Bereans. Many are accompanied with such humility that they may never be told if not for others taking notice and sharing on their behalf. That is the beauty of this community as it fosters belonging, support and value for all peoples of the earth.

Abbie Tanyhill Darst '03

Editor

Interim Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications

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■ **Left:** Aaron Gilmour '12 carries supplies to help his North Carolina town ravaged by flooding. Joined by other volunteers, churches and community supporters, Gilmour was able to create the Appalachian Community Relief nonprofit.

■ **Right:** Donations of all kinds were housed in the garden center of a local store and served more than 3,500 people weekly with supplies and people to listen and share their grief.

Photos submitted



A Lifeline after Hurricane Helene

By Kim Kobersmith

Aaron Gilmour '12 was at his home in western North Carolina when Hurricane Helene swept through and left heartache in its wake. He spent the night of September 28 bailing out his basement with a five-gallon bucket. Around him, trees crashed into homes, and small streams once inches deep turned into raging rivers feet high. In the aftermath, it was hard for Gilmour and other residents to grasp the extent of the devastation as they lacked cell service, internet, water and gas.

"When I went to check on my Berea College roommate and childhood friend in town, everything was caked in dry mud, there were upside-down vehicles and helicopters landing everywhere and huge sinkholes had opened up," he said. "It was very visceral seeing those things in person versus on videos."

After the first few chaotic days, Gilmour's life took on a new rhythm. In the morning, he would ensure he had enough food for the day and collect water from the creek to flush his toilets. In the afternoons, he found purpose and community volunteering at a relief hub headquartered at Black Mountain's Ingles grocery store.

"Serving is what we owe each other as human beings," he said. "It felt really good to do something. Volunteering became almost addictive, the ability to process what was happening and channel it into direct action."

Indeed, Gilmour's life has been steeped in service. His parents met while doing aid work in Africa. His dad ran a social justice nonprofit out of the family basement in North Carolina, and Gilmour tagged along on protests and town council meetings. He experienced the philosophy of service as a Berea

student, too. The school's ethos of creating a level playing field for low-income students solidified his values around the importance of providing opportunity.

The relief hub began as a water truck delivery to the Ingles parking lot. Allison Hargus, another Swannanoa Valley resident, met it upon arrival to see how she could help. Gradually, people from near and far showed up with donations of supplies that were collected in the store's garden center. Church groups and corporations came alongside them with donations and volunteers.

"The generosity from across the country was amazing," Gilmour said. "Someone would call and say they had an RV to donate, or a semi would show up full of supplies to drop off. We have had dozens of amazing and committed volunteers, and we absolutely couldn't



“It felt really good to do something. Volunteering became almost addictive, the ability to process what was happening and channel it into direct action.”

— AARON GILMOUR '12

have done it without all of those people.”

The Ingles hub grew into a center for search-and-rescue operations and debris removal. World Central Kitchen gave out meals. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) housed services there. The National Guard had a presence for two months. The 101st Airborne Division used the hub as a base of operations and assisted with warehouse management. Plus, they received support from state

agencies and the Town of Black Mountain.

Gilmour credits Hargus’ organizational skills and Black Mountain’s central location near devastated communities with turning the relief hub into one of the largest in the area. Initially, the need was universal. Even folks without flood-damaged homes needed water and food; the local water supply was unpotable for 53 days.

Originally set up as a drive-thru service offering hot meals, water and other

supplies, the group served 1,600 cars daily. As the acute needs waned, Gilmour’s group moved from a one-size-fits-all drive-thru to an individualized shopping model. More than 150 people visited their “store” each day, shopping for up to 3,500 people weekly.

While the material supplies were important, another aspect of the mission offered hope for upended lives. The shift to in-person shopping created community as people listened to each other’s stories and leaned on each other

in their grief. The staff took time to get to know the specific needs of residents and connected them to resources. Volunteers and recipients would share hugs and long conversations.

“The feedback we got was that this is the first place people felt dignity again,” Gilmour said. “Seeing the community show up for each other, neighbors helping neighbors, was the most special part.”

As fall turned into winter, cold and rainy weather made the garden center a challenge. Though covered, it was open to the elements. Gilmour and other leaders recognized the region would have years of recovery due to historic damage across such a widespread area. They couldn’t solve every problem but could contribute their piece among all the relief organizations doing work.

“We understand the second crisis here is a financial one,” he said. “With work disruptions and the wait for home insurance payments, people are really struggling to put food on the table. If we can help alleviate part of their monthly budget, they can put that money towards something else.”

So Hargus, Gilmour and other leaders began forming a nonprofit called

Appalachian Community Relief (ACR). They started a GoFundMe site to generate donations to lease an indoor location. ACR closed the garden center operation at the end of January after operating for nearly four months. They opened a storefront location in the middle of February where people shop for basic weekly groceries for free. They are also fundraising for mobile outreach to satellite towns needing supplies.

In the transition to a different model, Gilmour and other leaders are seeking a more sustainable path for themselves. He dedicated much of his non-working time as the director of operations. Now, with reduced hours and a focus on developing more volunteer leaders, they are laying the groundwork to be there for their community as long as it needs.

“Berea College encouraged me to explore my Appalachian identity, which was really helpful in seeing its complicated history and the rich traditions I am proud of,” Gilmour said. “Appalachian Community Relief really resonates with my values of building up the mountain communities where I grew up. I have a sense of this work being a calling.” ¹⁸

■ **Left:** Members of Appalachian Community Relief, started by Aaron Gilmour '12 and others, celebrate participants of the Asheville Marathon while hosting a water station to hand out water and snacks for the runners.
■ **Right:** “Even when the creek rises,” represents hope for the future despite unforeseen circumstances, like the devastating floods that damaged this North Carolina town.

Photos submitted



Authentic Advocacy in Action

By Hannah Hisle '23

Photo by Michael Paras Photography, LLC

Free tuition and insistent grandparents drew Ejim Dike '94 to Berea in 1990. The college's rich history and commitment to being a strong beacon in perilous times made her feel confident in her decision.

Serving as the executive director of the U.S. Human Rights Network has positioned Dike on the frontlines of addressing global issues. She has advocated for Indigenous communities affected by environmental pollution, women dealing with maternal mortality and reproductive justice, discussions about reparations and families impacted by police brutality.

In her eyes, anything that involves an individual's access to resources should be viewed through a human rights lens. She integrated everything she learned with her values to create a framework for the impact she wanted to make on the world.

Her advocacy led to her leadership position with the U.S. Human Rights Network. In 2012, the Civil and Human Rights Museum in Atlanta, Georgia, contacted her to do a piece on what racial discrimination looks like in the U.S.

The installation was a staple feature at the museum until it closed for renovations in January 2025. However, Dike has collaborated with the museum to curate new galleries for its expanded center opening later this year. These galleries will highlight the history and complexities of race in the U.S., from the impact of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to the integral role Atlanta played in the Civil Rights and Black Power movements.

"I think narrative is important; history is important," Dike said. "Understanding actual history is powerful and necessary. I'm hoping we told the story in a way that encourages reflection and inspires people."

Looking at the trajectory of her work, Dike embodies what it means to be a Berean at one's core: the importance of diligent work and finding common ground. Dike finds joy in life through meaningful connections and time spent with her daughter.

"I really enjoyed my time at Berea," she said. "I love the emphasis on service and giving back. I always thought it to be a responsibility we have to each other. Serving others who serve you is a social contract in a successful

community. I think Berea did a really good job of exemplifying that."

At Berea, Dike was exposed to the idea that education could serve as a means of personal empowerment and a catalyst for broader societal transformation. These ideas fostered a strong belief in the importance of having viable educational opportunities in one's life.

"Philosophically, I believe education is a human right, and it's a right we should all be able to access," Dike said, highlighting the lack of fairness in educational access that is contingent on the financial means of one's parents.

Dike related Berea's commitments and mission to the values she grew up with in her Nigerian household. For her, Berea reinforced the necessity of being guided by love and understanding.

"As a properly raised Nigerian, I sort of felt like I should be doing more engineering because that seemed to be more respected in the society at the time," she explained. "I didn't come from a culture where you could major in philosophy. If I could go back and counsel myself and my peers on one thing, it would be to not be scared of pursuing what you want."

Dike graduated from Berea with a degree in industrial technology. Taking advantage of the benefits of a liberal arts education, she explored courses outside of her major. To meet her exploratory perspectives, she took classes in philosophy and social justice. Despite the intention to go into architecture, she began gravitating more toward her passion for social work when it came time to find a career path after graduate school. "Because I didn't have this massive amount of debt, I felt the freedom to

choose a job I was more aligned with even if it paid less," she said. "I was able to graduate and take a job in social work, even though social work jobs don't pay very much. I don't think I would've had the same liberties if I didn't get a [tuition]-free education."

After graduating, Dike found herself in New York, where she connected with alumna Marie Runyon '37. Runyon introduced her to the world of social justice as a career. Since then, if Dike had a seat at the table, she knew how she wanted to use her influence.

Studying at Berea opened Dike's eyes to the intersectionality and depth of poverty and socioeconomic hardship in the U.S.

"When I was at Berea, I saw students from the Appalachian region, southeast region and international territories who had more similar experiences than you would think," she recalled, "which taught me the importance of looking at these problems not just through one social issue, like race, but through a variety of factors."

When asked what she's most proud of in her career, Dike focused on her work with the United Nations. "We changed what the 'experts' look like," she said. "We advocated for the experts on human rights topics to be someone with the same lived experience we're discussing on the floor, not just someone with a Ph.D."

Dike credits this success to the philosophy that people closest to the problem are in the best position to solve it. "The people who are now the experts are those with a testimony," Dike said. "That's what I'm most proud of." ■

WORTH THE COST

By Caleb Luikham

Photo by Sonam Tsering '27



For many people across Afghanistan, obtaining an education can be very difficult. Fedar '27 struggled for the chance to go to school and endured great hardship and tragedy in the pursuit of learning. Now he works to help other Afghan young people, especially women and girls whose freedoms have been restricted by the Taliban, find the same opportunities that made such a difference in his life.

Fedar was born to a farming family in rural Afghanistan. Growing up in a small village, the opportunities for school were very limited. The village had a small public school with few resources. In search of more educational opportunities, Fedar moved to the capital city of Kabul. There he studied English, math and science and began considering going abroad to attend college.

"I came from a very small, traditional family, and thinking about going abroad to study was not something very common in our village," he said. It would still be several years, though, before he made his way to the U.S. and to Berea College.

With a special eye on his new goal of studying overseas, Fedar devoted himself to his studies. Then tragedy struck. In October 2020, as Fedar was preparing for a national university entrance exam, the educational center where he was studying was attacked by terrorists.

"It was the first time for me, but it was not that unusual for other people," Fedar said.

The suicide bomber targeted the center and Fedar's class. Fedar was not seriously harmed, but he was one of the lucky ones. "We lost a lot of friends, a lot of classmates," he said. "More than 60 people died. Two of my best friends died in front of my eyes. That changed my perspective a lot—who I was and who I am."

This experience only made him more determined to get his education. "There's this fire inside you," Fedar said, "especially when you see your friends dying and you lost a lot of other people. That experience never dies inside."

After two months back home in his village recovering, Fedar returned to Kabul not only to continue his own education but also to assist others with their schooling.

Fedar started an organization called the Mawoud Educational Development Center. After six months of hard work, Fedar published a series of six academic English books. "I attracted a lot of students to help them get free education, especially those whose families couldn't afford public classes." Fedar's organization offered free education to as many students as possible until 2021 when the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan. Under the new regime, the center had to close.

The next year, Fedar left Afghanistan and moved to Pakistan. There, he began searching for colleges and universities in the U.S. to study. He applied to Berea College and became a student in 2023—the first member of his family to

"I attracted a lot of students to help them get free education, especially those whose families couldn't afford public classes."

— FEDAR '27

“When I got the news that I’d be receiving the Diana Award, it was unbelievable.... It was a testament to not only my effort and personal work, but also to the people who helped me do the stuff that I’m doing.”

– FEDA '27

attend college. Even half a world away from home, Fedā still felt a burning need to help other Afghan students. He decided to start a new organization that would help students back in Afghanistan follow in his footsteps and study abroad.

Feda started the Afghan Scholars Academy to continue his activities in Afghanistan. Through the Afghan Scholars Academy, Fedā and his colleagues help Afghan students, especially women and girls, to study overseas.

“We are teaching English, we are preparing students for international exams and we are helping them with their college applications,” Fedā said.


His work in founding the Afghan Scholars Academy has earned Fedā the Diana Award. Named for the late Princess Diana, it recognizes young people who are doing extraordinary things to make the world a better place. “When I got the news that I’d be receiving the Diana Award, it was unbelievable. This is the most prestigious award a young person can get for their social actions,” Fedā said. “It was a testament to not only my effort and personal work, but also to the people who helped me do the stuff that I’m doing.”

Feda’s time as a student at Berea has helped him expand the ways in which he’s able to help those back home.

“Before coming to Berea, my scope of services was narrow,” he said. “It was not as big as it is right now. I didn’t know a lot of people that I know right now as a result of my being at Berea College. I’ve met a lot of people who have been helping me with a lot of stuff.”

After he graduates, Fedā plans to continue and expand his work. “I’ve been very interested in understanding the intersection between poverty and education,” he said. “It all comes down to economics. After college, I plan to go to grad school and study development economics and finally earn a Ph.D. in economics.”

When he thinks about why he works so tirelessly in support of the mission that he’s taken on, Fedā thinks of his sisters. “I have four sisters, three of which are not allowed to go to school. They were in high school when the Taliban took over Afghanistan and closed the doors of schools,” he said. “Every time I talk to them, I feel their pain as if it’s my own. This pushed me to help as many Afghan girls get an education as I possibly can.”

Because of Fedā and the Afghan Scholars Academy, more than 3,000 Afghan students have been given an opportunity to pursue higher education. Fedā’s award-winning philanthropic work is a testament that one person can make an incredible difference in the world. 



FEDA MOHAMMADI

**THE DIANA AWARD
2024 RECIPIENT**

After a tragic attack on his school that claimed more than 50 lives, including two friends, Fedā channeled his grief into meaningful action. Following the Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan, while supporting his family, he founded the Afghan Scholars Academy, offering free guidance for Afghan students pursuing international college admissions and helping more than 3,000 students, the majority of whom are girls banned from schools, and 115 secured scholarships abroad. Fedā also raised funds to support underprivileged families, providing financial aid for 300 children. Despite immense challenges, Fedā remains hopeful, focusing on rebuilding opportunities and communities through equal access to education.

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- Julian '25, Clarksville, Ga.

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Sharing the Berea Spirit Globally

By Susan Giffin '65



■ **Left:** Tom McClure '66 appears in this picture behind the banner. He joined the dozens of Berea College students who marched from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery, Ala., in support of African American voting rights in 1965.

Photos from Berea College Special Collections and Archives

■ **Right:** Tom McClure '66 stands with members Mexico's Red Cross as part of the work he does providing volunteer support to health and addiction treatment programs.

Photos submitted

Some say we become who we are due to 10 defining moments, seven critical choices and five pivotal people. Sometimes, they overlap.

As a Berea College student in the 1960s, Thomas “Tom” McClure '66 had a life-defining moment when he read Dr. Viktor Frankl’s “Man’s Search for Meaning.” An early pivotal person in his life was Perley Ayer, Berea professor of rural sociology, who made a profound and lasting impact on McClure’s life.

This impact evolved into a desire to help organizations create and support addiction prevention and recovery efforts. McClure drew on his young life where family and friends had addiction issues. Later, he also struggled with abusing alcohol and prescription medications. Much later in life, he recognized his struggles in college resulted from undiagnosed ADHD and from taking questionable medications prescribed on an experimental basis by

an outpatient clinic where he had gone for help.

McClure survived and, despite the damage, decided while still in college he wanted a life with meaning. He did not realize it then, but in 1972, in Atlanta, Georgia, he found that life through attending a variety of community-based self-help recovery organizations composed of people with similar interests. He received the help he needed to abstain completely from alcohol and drugs. Finally, with the help of others, he moved out of the darkness of active addiction into a sun-filled, productive life. In December 2024, McClure celebrated 53 years of freedom from the physical, mental and psychological constraints of addiction and a more fulfilling life with purpose, meaning and adventure beyond his wildest dreams.

McClure came from what would now be called a dysfunctional family. His early life revolved around people and problems associated with heavy drinking. In addition, he grew up in

what was then called a sundown town—one that abounded with a history of racist attitudes and racial segregation. Thankfully, those attitudes no longer permeate that town, which has acknowledged and apologized for its historical dark period. McClure came from a hard-working family limited in its appreciation of higher education. McClure became the first in his immediate family to graduate from college.

After a year at Bellarmine College in Louisville, Kentucky, McClure transferred to Berea along with his alcohol dependence, which increasingly handicapped his studies. However, he found a new life on Berea’s campus. There he met friendly students, a supportive faculty and concerned administrators that, in many ways, provided the stable home, family and community life he had rarely experienced.

“At Berea, I finally felt involved and secure—it was a home,” McClure said. He became involved in several campus activities and labor assignments,

including working in the Guidance Office, leading campus tours and assisting in the president’s development office. Part of his job involved spending hours reading about Berea’s history, goals and the significant challenges arising from the College’s radical mission.

“I was not the typical high academic-performing Berea student,” McClure admitted. The labor program fascinated, engaged and rewarded him. He gained significant work experience and skills that served him well in his future career in community service, project development and management.

While at Berea, McClure had not caught a world vision of the multitudes facing economic and discrimination crises until classmate and friend, George Giffin '66, persistently urged McClure to get involved in the Civil Rights Movement. Giffin’s enthusiasm was contagious, but the real motivator for McClure came when his friend, Roscoe, one of Berea’s Black students, was refused service at the local Coffee Cup Café.

McClure had no idea that services could be denied to someone simply because of race. Before he knew it, McClure was on his way with Giffin, fellow students and faculty to Selma, Alabama, where they marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to Montgomery in 1965.

“Until Selma, I had never experienced such fear, such hatred being directed at me,” McClure recalls. “The only comparable experience in my life came later with my involvement in a Bosnia post-war conflict resolution effort between white but opposing ethnic and religious groups.”

McClure’s newfound concern for the discriminated and politically unrepresented millions did not end with the civil rights march. While still a Berea College student, he participated extensively in Save the Children and Council of the Southern

Mountains rural service and community development programs, such as Appalachian Volunteers.

These experiences became the linchpin for McClure’s 60-plus years in leadership training and development work in the South and Northeast and then encircling the globe. His international development and training work focused on post-communist Central and Eastern Europe, pre- and post-revolution Egypt and the Middle East, South Asia and East and Southern Africa. He provided training, funding and materials, and offered management support to evolving leaders of nonprofit, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose purpose was to further democracy and aid disadvantaged women, children and the disenfranchised.

He had found his life of purpose.

In addition to conducting workshops and consultations in post-Communist Europe and Russia, McClure used foundation and government grants for his extensive work in other Eastern European countries. In South Asia, McClure lived in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan’s Northwest Frontier Province where he administered medical and development projects funded by the U.S. Department of State and United Nations. He founded Save the Children Pakistan to meet the needs of children and families in those camps.

As a key advisor, McClure helped to create programs for the Salvation Army World Services Office (SAWSO), in Washington, D.C., which took him on missions to several pre- and post-colonial African countries including Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and Soweto Township in South Africa. He developed training programs for evolving national leaders of the organization. McClure served in top field management positions for Save the Children (USA), America’s

Development Foundation and the Salvation Army World Service Office. In Egypt, McClure obtained government funding to create Arabic NGO training videos, featuring Egyptian TV personalities, for community development orientation and training for more than 400 civil society leaders from 10 Middle Eastern countries.

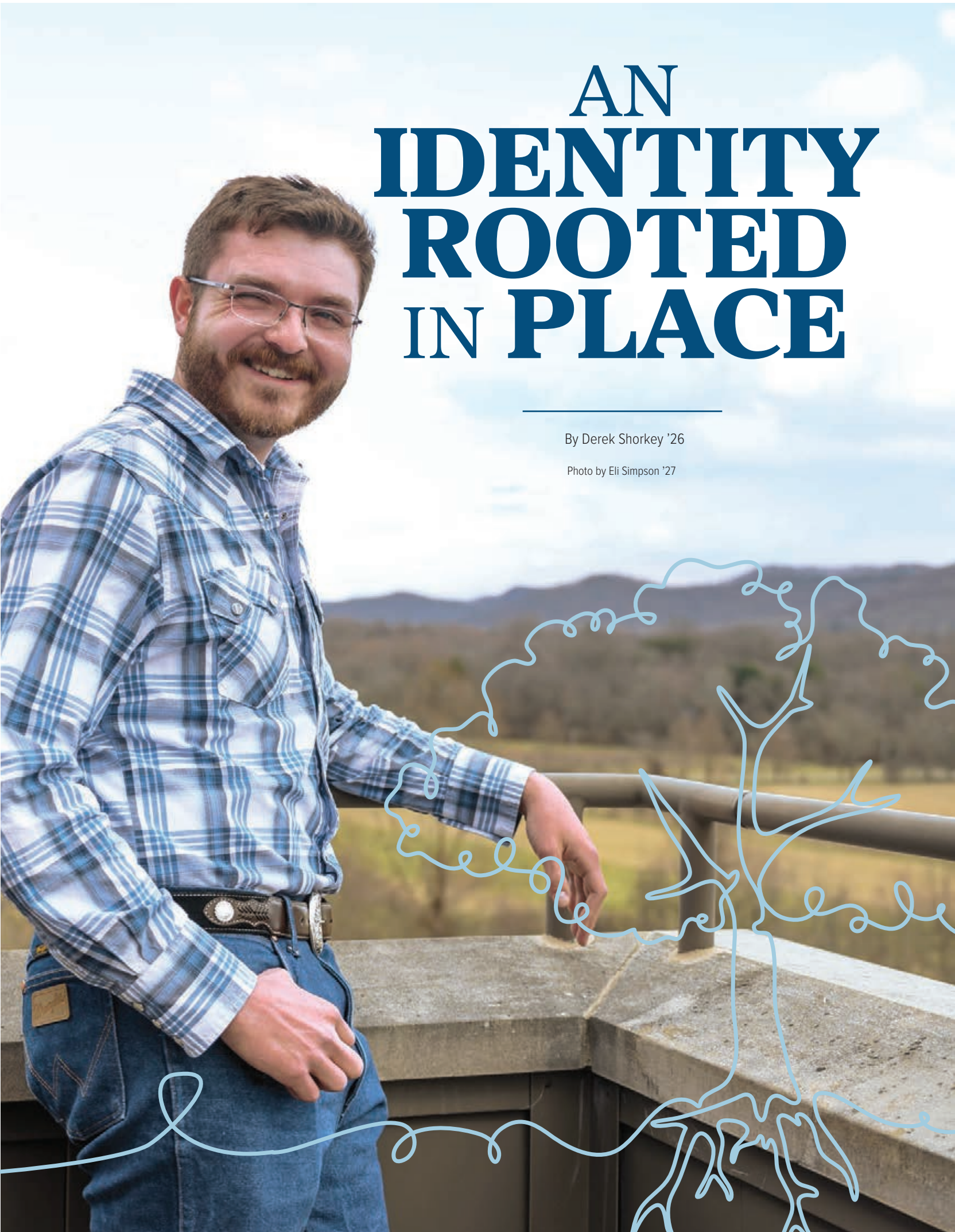
Most notable among McClure’s achievements is founding Support Centers International (SCI) in 1990 in Westport, Connecticut. SCI encourages organizations and individuals to share information on addiction and recovery solutions. SCI established U.S. and international conferences to link addiction service providers and facilities with recovery specialists.

In 2018, SCI established and funded the Appalachian Gathering for Recovery Solutions in Corbin, Kentucky. Its growth was supported by Berea’s Appalachian Fund. Rev. Kent Gilbert, pastor of Union Church, is the president. McClure serves as the SCI volunteer director in Mexico.

McClure continues to work in community development providing volunteer management support to health and addiction treatment programs in Bosnia, Ukraine, Egypt, southeastern Kentucky and Jalisco, Mexico. He divides his time each year between Corbin, Kentucky, and Ajijic, Jalisco State, Mexico.

“In retrospect,” McClure said, “at age 84, I can say with great confidence that offering services for the common good, especially the disenfranchised, disadvantaged and abused brought meaning, purpose and enhancement to my life and still does.

“I am grateful to Berea College and my recovery,” he added, “for having provided me with the means, the model and, yes, the spirit to provide that service.” ■



AN IDENTITY ROOTED IN PLACE

By Derek Shorkey '26

Photo by Eli Simpson '27

For Adam LeMaster '25, identity was difficult to pin down. He knew he was Appalachian, although he didn't have the words to describe exactly what that meant. As he spent his formative years in eastern Kentucky on his grandfather's farm atop a hill, he heard stories of his grandfather's farm being taken to develop a highway, before his grandfather fought the decision in court and ultimately saved large chunks of the farm. Now, with a deeper understanding of his identity as a person from Appalachia and experience dealing with the law, he plans to use his political science degree as a springboard to law school. Adam hopes to serve his region by helping other Appalachian people struggling with eminent domain to understand their rights.

Adam started thinking about college when he heard stories from his parents about their experiences. His mother attended Berea, and Adam heard all her stories about the College while he was growing up. He says her experience was a motivator for him to apply to the College, especially given how she described the academics Berea offers.

"It always sounded nice," he said. "I had considered myself a very studious person. I told myself, 'I'm going to go to law school!' That's my plan, still, but something about the academic rigor of Berea really attracted me."

Adam was a natural candidate for Berea. But when it came to his understanding of what being from Appalachia meant before he came to Berea, it boiled down to being a "rural kid."

"I knew my community was part of the larger Appalachian region, but I never really had a cohesive understanding of what it meant to be an Appalachian person. The extent of my experience with being an Appalachian person was being a country person—I was raised rural."

With this perspective, he hadn't thought of his experience in Appalachia as a distinct culture until he arrived at Berea. As part of his first-year courses, Adam took a class on Appalachian culture. The course put words to feeling, and as his first year came to a close, Adam could articulate his lived experience as an eastern Kentuckian more clearly.

"What I came to find is that I resonated with everything we talked about: Appalachian culture, having a very deep connection to place, feeling not just attached but tethered to your home place and your family and feeling those kinds of responsibilities,

As he plans for a future law career, his path remains flexible, but his thoughts are rooted in Appalachia. Aside from eminent domain, there are still plenty of issues to be settled by lawyers in the region, including personal lawsuits. A big issue is abandoned coal mines, Adam says.

"Most of this region, throughout the eastern part of the state at one time or another, had very heavy coal mining operations. So, there's a lot of questions about what to do with the old coal mines because many of them are still owned by companies that are based in New York and Chicago."

...as his first year came to a close, Adam could articulate his lived experience as an eastern Kentuckian more clearly.

feeling extremely homesick every day, every waking moment. It was like pulling magnets apart. It was something that was always present, I just didn't have the words for it until I got here."


That connection to place resonated deepest when his grandfather's land became subject to eminent domain. Adam's grandfather felt the highway surveyors were planning to take much more than necessary.

"They stood on one side of the valley, shot right across the other, and said, 'Yup, that's how much land we need to take,'" he said.

The survey of the farm threatened to take hundreds of feet off both hillsides of the farm. His grandparents fought the decision in court, leading to a new survey and a much more reasonable acquisition.

The question of what to do with former mines becomes front and center for the surrounding local communities. Eastern Kentucky groups and lawyers are working on plans to develop the land more sustainably.

"A lot of [the work] is restorative in nature," Adam explained. He said many attorneys working in eastern Kentucky communities seek the best ways to restore land to be as useful for surrounding communities as possible even if they cannot restore land ownership.

Adam will be taking his new understanding of culture and identity with him into his law career. Wherever it takes him, he hopes to be of service to his home community and to continue to build upon the skills he learned at Berea. 

DO WHAT YOU LOVE

By Brooke Donley '26

Photo by Breana Lovins '25



Growing up as a middle child, Summer Bahr '25 always wanted to be like her older brother. Around the age of 10, her brother had to do volunteer work, and she began to watch him. "I started just asking if I could assist with cutting out the different shapes for the library's makerspace," she said. It turned into many years of Summer spending time at the library helping out.

Toward the end of high school, Summer was unsure if she would be able to go to college until she was recruited for cross-country and track and field. "Being a part of a team has really made me who I am today," Summer said.

Summer's love of volunteering has transformed from wanting to be like her brother into something she truly enjoys. At Berea College, she applied to be a Bonner Scholar, a nationwide program that supports students who want to change the world through service. "I didn't really know what it meant, but I applied and was accepted. It was a really fun experience working with the 14 other Bonners."

First-year Bonner Scholars are assigned a labor position within the Center for Excellence in Learning through Service (CELTs) program. Summer's first work assignment was with middle schoolers at Berea Community School, where she and her team worked to create engaging, themed activities for the students. "Unfortunately, due to COVID-19," she said, "I couldn't engage with the community as much as previous groups."

The next summer, she was able to choose where she wanted to work in CELTS and decided to work with Habitat for Humanity. She began as a team member, researching housing market issues and making infographics for social media. After her summer of service, she focused on engaging social media content. She is now a program manager.

"I am in constant contact with community partners to ensure we are giving back through our labor," Summer said. "My favorite part is seeing everyone glow while we are working at a build site."

She encourages other students to get involved. "The work itself is very low stakes," she explained. "You are not going to get hurt or in trouble if something goes wrong. It is a way to give back to others in a variety of ways whether it be with children, senior citizens or people trying to learn a new language."

Summer's love of volunteering had transformed from wanting to be like her brother into something she truly enjoys.

Another aspect of being a Bonner Scholar is completing two summers of service, where students intern for a nonprofit organization or other community support service. "Those have been the most rewarding aspects of Berea that I have been able to be a part of," Summer said.

The first summer of service Summer completed was in North Carolina at Catawba Riverkeeper. It protects the Catawba River basin, and Summer worked as a marketing intern. She promoted events and merchandise and made many social media posts. "It was my first time marketing something, and I really enjoyed working with the organization."

The second summer of service was the most rewarding for Summer. She split her time between two sites, the first being Sunnyvale Public Library. "I brought back to life a program to help older patrons use apps on mobile devices," she said. "My summer of service reinforced that I want to be a librarian."

The second site, Nearly New Shop in Sunnyvale, is a completely volunteer-operated shop where they resell donations. "Every day was different," she said. "There were always donations to be sorted through or something to be organized. I love organization, so this was a good place to work for the summer." Sometimes Summer would interpret for Spanish-speaking families at the store.

Throughout high school, Summer enjoyed Spanish class, and she wanted to continue learning. Being at Berea and doing volunteer work helped her

realize the importance of being bilingual. "It made me aware of how many people only speak Spanish and how I could become bilingual to help others because it is not a skill a lot of English speakers have," Summer explained.

In her Spanish courses, Summer took Fred de Rosset's Spanish 310, which meets the Active Learning Experience (ALE) that all students must have to graduate. "I had the opportunity to work with the Spanish-speaking population at the Madison County Public Library," Summer said. "It was so hard, and it was so rewarding. It allows me to show a whole population of people that I see them and their language is beautiful."

This experience helped Summer solidify her choice of major and set her on the path to becoming a librarian. "All the skills I have gained," Summer said, "through my education and volunteer time at Berea are transferable to a library setting." ■

LET THE WORK SPEAK FOR ITSELF

By Hannah Hisle '23

Photo by Sonam Tsering '27

In summer 2022, Sean '25 was interning at Appalshop, a media, arts and education center in Whitesburg, Ky., when his community was hit by a flood. As a result, Appalshop was forcibly closed only one day before the intern filmmakers' projects were set to wrap up.

Scrambling, Sean, the Appalshop team, and other interns saved the films, loaded up and took the crew from Letcher County to Lexington for a screening at the Kentucky Theatre. When the flood happened, Sean started seeing his community in a new light.

"The people I live around don't always have the same ideas, but we still help everyone, and we still volunteer," Sean said. "I want to show the side of Appalachia you never really see."

Speaking about the harmful stereotypes most people have about the region, he emphasizes the important role documentary media plays in how a culture is represented.

"If you've ever heard of the film *Stranger with a Camera*, a Canadian filmmaker was shot and killed while filming families in the 1960s—it happened five minutes from where I grew up," Sean explained. "The reaction from the Appalachian community came off as heartless. They weren't heartless; it was more about being tired of people coming in and portraying us however they wanted." Sean recognized the impact this had and wanted to help flip the script.

Sean carried this mindset with him as he packed his bags for Berea College that fall. He began an independent major in applied film and media and a labor position with Marketing and Communications, where he studied alongside filmmaker Justin Skeens. Skeens became a strong mentor for Sean through their shared interest: a commitment to presenting Appalachia with dignity, focusing on the region's vibrancy, resilience and breadth.

This kindred commitment to push back against narratives that cemented

Appalachia as stagnant and outdated opened Sean up to a world of opportunity. He worked on a documentary with other Bereans that highlighted a Black History Museum in Ashland, Kentucky. The piece garnered Sean a regional Emmy award. Following this work, he migrated from being on the photography team in marketing to exclusively photographing Student Craft. Through the dedication and detail Sean puts in his work, he was offered a new position crafted for him to mentor other film students and take more creative liberties.

Sean's tools, capabilities and comfortability have expanded, becoming more fine-tuned within the storytelling process. "Being at Berea has allowed me to develop my skill set in filmmaking. I'm able to document in a

think about," Sean explained, in reference to his latest project, "Nora: A Craft Story."

"With Nora, it's the henna on her hands while she sculpts on the wheel, it's the way she does everything so slowly and intentionally, it's the way she peels back the tarp off the clay," Sean said.

The film opens on Nora '25 entering the clay-dusted door of the studio with "Welcome to Berea Ceramics," painted in blue. Inside, she fills her water bucket, places four lumps of red clay at her station and begins to tell her story.

This project is showcased as a Berea College Student Craft Film, produced and directed by Sean, two other students and Student Craft leader,

...crediting his growth to the opportunities, connections and creative freedom he's gained through studying at Berea.

way that does the subject justice," he says, highlighting the importance of making documentaries for the people they're about, rather than the greater "other."

Now, as the lead photographer for Student Craft, he searches for the story woven within the minute details. "It's in the artist's hands. It's in the way they do all the little things we don't even

Aaron Beale. It follows Nora along her process of making ceramic tagines, demonstrating how she blends her family's Moroccan culture with certain Western influences.

There's a careful eye that goes into the nuance of doing a cultural story. Sean shows how he works to find this balance through his current work position and his beginnings with Appalshop.

Student Craft's reputation for blending traditional Appalachian craft with students' diversified influences and ideas became the perfect melting pot for Sean to develop himself as an artist. He explains that it's sometimes difficult to associate oneself with the identity of being an artist. There is such an internal critique and desire to better each piece, and finding a stopping point can sometimes feel like an injustice to the work. Sometimes, an



PLAY VIDEO : A Craft Story
To view Sean's video of Nora's Student Craft story scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/NoraCraftStory>



artist has to step back and let the art exist as itself.


“There are a lot of artists, like me, who are very shy,” Sean said. “It’s really hard to look at your art and say ‘I’m an artist. I’m a creative person. I make cool stuff,’ and Aaron is always reminding me that we are not just documenting Craft, we are part of Craft. That we are creators and Craft makers in our own right.”

When talking about his roots, Sean doesn’t view Appalachia as a place to “escape from,” but rather a place to celebrate and pay homage to through his work. He thanks his grandmother (who he calls Gran) for instilling creative diligence in him from a young age—even if she didn’t know it. “I’ve seen her make so many quilts—some take years,” Sean remembers. “It’s hard work. I don’t think she thinks she’s an artist. But I know she is.”

Sean glows with appreciation for his grandparents. “My grandparents have been so good to me,” he said. “They have supported me in every way. Growing up in Cumberland and Harlan (Ky.) wasn’t easy. I’ve dealt with homelessness and loved ones grappling with addiction, but my grandparents have always been there. My grandma is my best friend and the best person ever.”

His grandparents’ unwavering encouragement has helped focus him. Supporting a career in the arts isn’t always common in Appalachian families, but Sean laughs that his Gran displays his Emmy by her TV stand and never shies away from telling everyone about him.

As he works on his senior capstone project, he plans to incorporate one of his Gran’s quilts into a curated scene of an Appalachian living room. Through

this final undergraduate project, Sean continues to develop a storytelling style that is full-bodied in rich visuals and narrative. Nevertheless, he credits his growth to the opportunities, connections and creative freedom he’s gained through studying at Berea. 

■ The photos above are a small sampling of the images Sean ’25 has captured in his work position with Student Craft. He aims to catch the beauty in the minute details of the work. By not just capturing the product but also the human element that goes into each piece, he helps bring each item created by Craft students to life for patrons.

Photos by Sean Hall ’25



FULL-CIRCLE CONTRIBUTIONS

by Brooke Donley ’26

Faryal ’27 is an economics major with a concentration in finance and data analytics. Faryal calls Mianwali, Pakistan her home, but on one of her first days in Berea she found a calming place in the cafe once located inside the Boone Tavern Hotel. Little did she know how Boone Tavern would coincide with her time in the labor program.

As Faryal entered her second year at Berea, she wanted to become more involved with other Bereans on campus and find a sense of community. She soon realized she could connect with a community of staff and students through her labor position.

“The people in ceramics have a different style from other students who work with art on campus. It’s more applied and practical.”

This past semester, Faryal and the other students in the ceramics department created artwork for Boone Tavern, one of the first places that Faryal was introduced to on campus. The craft students were in charge of not only making the tiles for the mural that will be placed in Boone Tavern, but they were also able to decide how they wanted the piece to look. The mural will be a vibrant clay interpretation of a flower field, and each tile has been crafted with intricate details of each flower. “It’s a beautiful blend of craftsmanship and creativity, and we are excited to see how it brings warmth and artistry to the space,” Faryal said.

Through the decoration of the Boone Tavern restaurant, Faryal sees her artwork being practically applied to a campus project, providing her with a sense of community among those collaborating to create this mural. “It’s really cool,” Faryal said, “because I can bring my kids back someday and tell them I helped make this artwork.”

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Conservation and Community Building

By Andrew Faught

Growing up in southeastern Kentucky, Tierra Curry '97 was thrilled at splashing in Troublesome Creek, a natural wonderland fringed with trees. There, her mother taught her to hunt, fish and forage.

More than three decades later, memories are all that remain.

Surface mining polluted the creek and spoiled the family's well. More than 25 percent of the Troublesome Creek watershed has been strip-mined for coal, bringing rampant pollution and deadly flooding.

Her childhood memories set Curry on a path to save animal species in wild spaces that are under siege in her childhood stomping grounds, including monarch butterflies and hellbender salamanders (the largest salamander in the U.S.).

Biodiversity buffers against climate change and disease outbreaks because balanced ecologies are resilient. Biodiversity also provides food, water and medicine essential to human life.

"Even as a kid, I knew what the coal companies were doing was wrong, and I wanted to do something about it," said Curry, a senior scientist with the Tucson, Arizona-based Center for

Biological Diversity, a nonprofit organization working to protect endangered species through legal action, media outreach and grassroots activism.

"I was absorbed in the environment," she added. "I knew the name of every plant in the woods and the habits of the animals. I could tell you what turtles and frogs lived where, what time the birds did their thing and when the bats came out."

Curry works for the Center from her home in Somerset, Kentucky. Since 2007, she's led efforts to boost public awareness of the extinction crisis, including organizing the group's Saving Life on Earth campaign, in which she urges organizations ranging from schools, government agencies, scouting troops and "anybody who will listen" to press the federal government to declare extinction threats to be a "national emergency." The campaign also urges officials to crack down on air and water pollution, toxic chemicals and pesticides.

In the United States, 150 U.S. species are known to be extinct, and 500 more species are "missing in action" and could also be extinct.

Curry is joined in her efforts by former classmate Perrin de Jong '99, an Asheville, North Carolina-based senior attorney who joined the organization in 2017, after taking part in grassroots environmental campaigns that included pushing for the U.S. military's safe disposal of chemical weapons and stopping the sale of paper made from endangered forests around the world. Before joining the Center, de Jong operated a solo private practice law firm specializing in criminal defense, consumer protection and employee protection. He decided to become an environmental lawyer because litigation can have far-reaching impacts.

"It's the attorneys who are able to finish fights and put an exclamation point on the defeat of a bad project," said de Jong, who has embodied an activist spirit as long as he can remember. "At the Center, we have won a lot. There's a gritty determination."

In 2023, de Jong filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Center against the U.S. Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to protect three species—the endangered Guyandotte River crayfish

■ Tierra Curry '97 (left) works for the Center for Biological Diversity, which protects endangered species. She works alongside senior attorney Perrin de Jong '99, pictured above paddling the Great Dismal Swamp, with an American alligator in the background. Together these two alumni embody the activist spirit to fight for the 500 U.S. species considered "missing in action" that may soon be extinct.

Photos submitted





■ **Top left:** Tierra Curry '97 presents about U.S. endangered wildlife at the Oxford Animal Ethics Conference in July 2022.

■ **Top Right:** Perrin de Jong '99 trailside in Desolation Wilderness in the Sierra Nevadas.

■ **Bottom:** Tierra Curry '97, Perrin de Jong '99 and Lesley Rae Sneed '14, who is now an environmental permit specialist at the Kentucky Resources Council, met up at the Southeastern Public Interest Environmental Law (SPIEL) Conference in 2024.

Photos submitted

and candy darter and the threatened Big Sandy crayfish—from coal mining in Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia. The case is pending.

It is one of 19 lawsuits involving de Jong, with the Center winning approximately 80 to 90 percent of its cases. Since 2019, Curry and de Jong have worked together to protect aquatic endangered species in the context of coal mining regulations.

The pair's work is urgent. Scientists have determined, for example, that central Appalachian streams impacted by coal mining show a 32 percent decline in the number of species present and a 53 percent drop in the total number of invertebrates, fish and salamanders.

Curry and de Jong met at Berea when both were members of Students for Appalachia, a student-led community-service program, now under the umbrella of the Center for Excellence in Learning through Service (CELTs), that helped people in the city and the surrounding region with problems of daily life. At Berea, de Jong, a sociology major, was inculcated with strong writing skills that deepened his persuasive power.

"The writing was just relentless, they never let us stop," he said. "Doing it over and over again for four years was such an important element of my

development professionally. It unifies all of my jobs—as an attorney, a campaigner and as someone who has written grants."

de Jong works at a time of "unprecedented opposition" to environmental advocacy. "We've got a job to do, and we've got to get to it," he says of his Center work. He says when we harm the hellbender salamander, we harm ourselves.

Curry says her heart is in Appalachia. She draws inspiration from her great uncle, a community organizer who worked with the Kentucky Fair Tax Coalition in the 1980s. His efforts helped lead the passage of a state constitutional amendment protecting landowners from having their subsurface rights exploited by mining companies.

She forged her advocacy sensibilities at Berea, where, as an English and Spanish double-major, Curry learned the importance of community building, storytelling and compassion.

"I do have a front-row seat to the destruction because I track all of the studies, but I get to connect with people of all ages and all walks of life," Curry says. "I get to hear their stories and see how many people actually care and are doing something. That is incredibly heartwarming." 📖

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Pictured is Jeremy Grant '00. He teaches English and Theatre at Madison Southern High School, Berea, KY.

Photo by Crystal Wylie '05

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Rallying for Rural Education

By Caleb Luikham

Photo by Ehku Say '26



Dr. Robert Stafford '89 is a tireless advocate for rural

education. Throughout his long and impressive career, he's served Kentucky's students in many ways—as a teacher, a principal, a school district superintendent and more. Today, he seeks to advance the cause of learning through his work in the College of Education at Georgetown College and advocacy with the Kentucky Rural Education Association (KREA).

Dr. Stafford's educational journey began in earnest at Berea College, where he transferred from Morehead State University in 1986. "Somewhere around the fall of my [first] year, I had a friend who went to Berea College," Stafford said. "I came down over a weekend and they had an open house."

The opportunity to experience Berea convinced him this was where he wanted to get his college education. "I just fell in love with the place and all that was going on, and so I put my application in," he said.

Stafford graduated from Berea in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in economics. The summer before graduation, he completed an internship with the court systems, which hired him as a pre-trial officer in the far western part of the state after he graduated. Through this job, he developed a true personal connection with the state of Kentucky and its many towns and counties. "I got great experience traveling from county to county and courthouse to courthouse," he said.

It was also because of this job that he first considered a career in education. His supervisor was a school board member, and discussions with him sparked Stafford's interest. He discovered that the University of Kentucky had just started offering a master's in education with initial

certification and decided to pursue it. As soon as he earned his degree, he began teaching in Owen County, where he's been for more than 35 years.

Today, Stafford advocates for Kentucky's students through KREA. The genesis of this organization goes back to when he was still working on his doctoral degree. At the time, KREA did not exist. "I kept coming across research from the *Rural Educator*, the research journal for the National Rural Education Association (NREA)," he said. "I decided to look into what the NREA was and found they were having their national conference in Columbus, Ohio."

He was very interested in their work, so he decided to attend. Stafford was surprised he was the only school superintendent from Kentucky at the conference. "I thought, 'Well, what is this, that Kentucky, a rural state, doesn't have an association for rural educators?'"

That question spurred him into action. He started gathering like-minded educators and began organizing what would become the Kentucky Rural Education Association. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020 just as members started discussing how to launch the KREA. It wasn't until several years later that Stafford and his associates revisited their plans.

Now that the KREA has been established, Stafford and his colleagues have turned their attention to making it grow. "My intent over this next year is to spread the word about all the great things that are going on in our rural schools that sometimes get overlooked," he said. "We find we have really bright and talented young people in our schools and with the right opportunity, the right access, they can really achieve."

Stafford and the KREA have a lot of exciting and ambitious plans for what

they'd like to see the organization do. "We want to recognize a Teacher of the Year who would represent rural Kentucky at the National Rural Education Association conference each year," Stafford said. "The other thing we're making plans for is a teacher institute that would look at place-based education and help middle school teachers develop curriculum."

Ultimately, it all comes down to advocating for and supporting the teachers and students of Kentucky. "Touching the classroom and supporting our rural educators is important for the KREA," he said.

Stafford has found a great many allies in his work. "There is a tremendous amount of interest across the state, from educators to policymakers," he said. "When you mention rural education, they really perk up. Many of our people are from rural communities. They understand the importance of what they learned growing up in rural Kentucky."

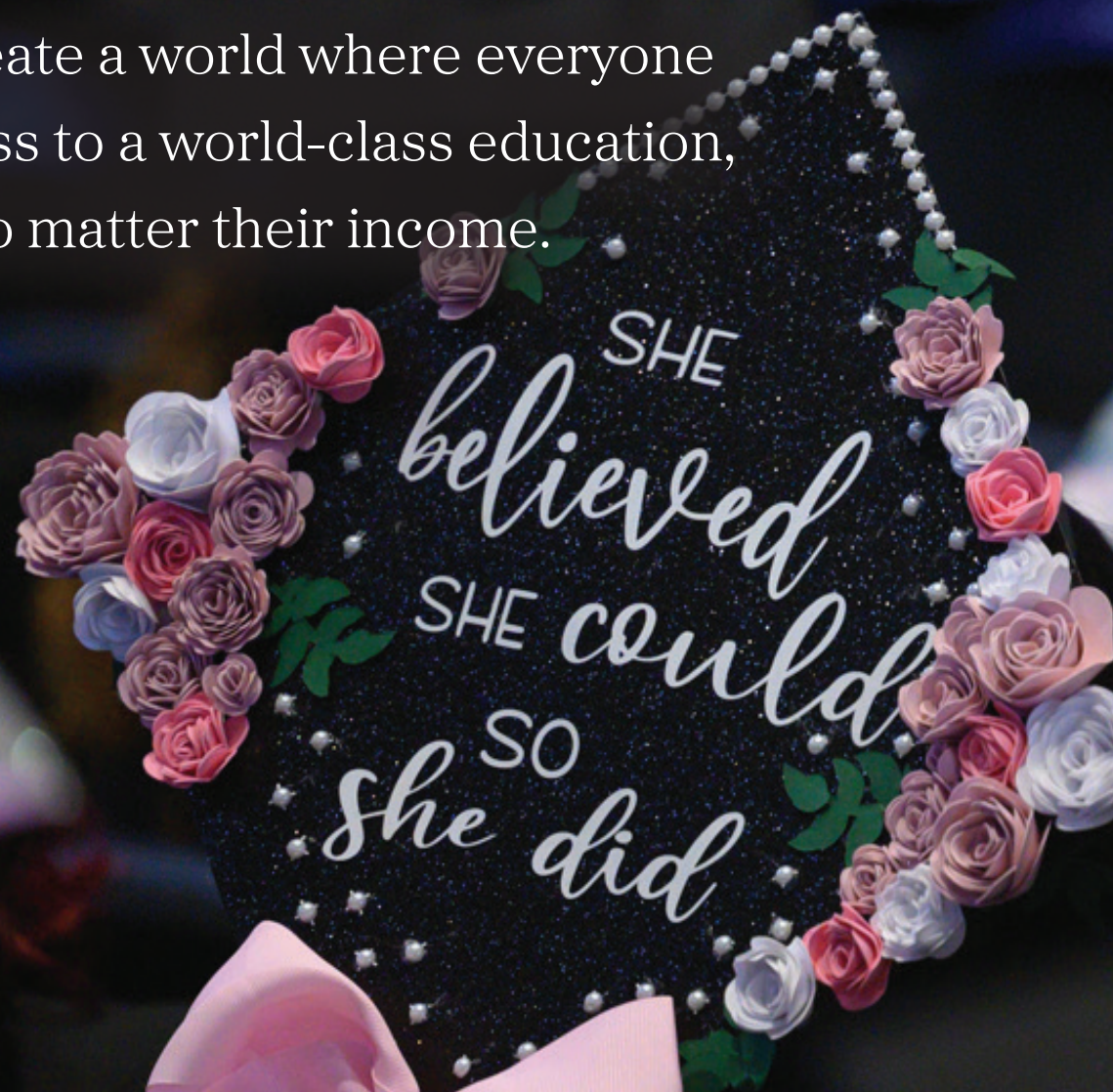
Dr. Stafford has found that across the state, people have a deep interest in rural education and strong support for their local schools.

For Stafford, his Berea College education was foundational to his career as an educator and the advocacy he devotes himself to today. "Working with other people, getting to know other people from different backgrounds and really learning the interpersonal skills to be able to succeed in a career, I attribute all of that to Berea College laying that foundation for me," he said.

Because of his dedication and the wonderful work being done by KREA, future generations of rural Kentucky students will have dynamic and compelling defenders championing their educational success. **B**

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Photo by Nay Kaw '23

REMEMBERING Betty Jean Hall



Photo by Thomas Moonjeli '23

Betty Jean Hall '68 built her career on transforming lives in practical and tangible ways. She was born in Buckhorn, Kentucky, graduated from Berea College with a degree in history and eventually earned a law degree from Antioch School of Law. Hall became a fiery lawyer who fought for the rights of Appalachian women to work in coal mines and “really honest-to-goodness make a decent living,” as she was quoted saying in the 1981 film “Coalmining Women.”

Hall piloted the Coal Employment Project in 1977. Standing barely five feet tall, she took on large coal corporations advocating for women in the nation’s poorest region to have access to higher-paying coal-mining jobs previously open only to men. Hall held conferences, provided training and won public-service awards. Though small in stature, she stood fearless in the courtroom, paving the way for thousands of Appalachian women to provide a better life for their families.

After Hall’s death in August 2024, Jim '68 and Sharen Branscome and Diana Durham, Fd. '68, advocated for an endowed fund to memorialize Hall and to provide scholarships to Berea College students from economically distressed Appalachian counties. The scholarship is for highly motivated students who demonstrate leadership skills through campus or community service and who are proficient in the classroom. It seeks to support students whose background, determination and heart for others are in line with Hall’s spirit and actions.

Hall’s daughter said, “My mother believed in the underdog; she gave up a high-priced legal career to help the under-advantaged.” This scholarship for Berea students allows that work to continue—helping the next generation of Berea graduates become tomorrow’s national advocates.

The Betty Jean Hall Endowed Scholarship was established by Tiffany and Kevin Olsen, Tim Burke, Janet Hall Smith and the women miners of the Coal Employment Project.



Betty Jean Hall, front right, joins in applause at the Coal Employment Project's annual conference held in Charleston, West Virginia, in 1984.
Photo by Earl Dotter



To learn more about the scholarship and how you can support the fund, please visit www.berea.edu/giving and designate your gift to the Betty Jean Hall Endowed Scholarship.

Lifelong Learning and Exploration

By Penelope Wong and Libby Falk Jones

“Once a Berean, always a Berean,” Emeritus President Lyle Roelofs often said. Berea’s retired faculty and staff show how the Berea experience continues to play out in the lives of those who’ve served the College in different capacities for many years. Over the past three decades, dozens of Berea’s retired professionals have continued working and giving back in the areas of scholarship, creative work, service, athletics and caregiving.

SCHOLARSHIP AND WRITING

Many retirees continue the scholarship and writing they began at Berea. **Bill Best ’59**, former professor of physical education and general studies, has written five books in the 23 years since he retired. One of them, “Kentucky Heirloom Seeds: Growing, Eating, Saving,” written with Dobree Adams, was published by University Press of Kentucky in 2017.

In 2023, **Andrew Baskin ’73** received the National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS) Black Appalachian Storytelling Fellowship for Kentucky. The fellowship was used to publish a small monograph titled “Dorothy Mitchell-Kincaid: The Conscience of the 13 Streets of Alcoa, Tennessee,” which Baskin edited with his wife, Symerdar Baskin. Funds from sales provide financial assistance to residents with chronic diseases in Blount County, Tennessee. Baskin retired in 2019 as a professor of African and African American Studies.

Steve Gowler’s activities since retiring as professor of general studies and Chester D. Tripp Chair in Humanities in 2023 have included editing page proofs and indexing an intellectual biography of William Goodell, a mentor of John G. Fee and

grandfather of Berea’s third president. “Goodell’s political theology provides a glimpse into what I think of as the DNA of Berea’s commitment to social justice,” Gowler says. The book, “Thoughts that Burned: William Goodell, Human Rights, and the Abolition of American Slavery,” was published in April by Cornell University Press.

Robert Hoag, who retired in 2019 as a professor and the Henry Mixer Penniman Chair in Philosophy, recently published a piece titled, “Right Authority, Armed Interventions.” The piece addresses questions about who, if anyone, has the proper authority to intervene militarily to address gross violations of basic human rights such as genocides and “ethnic cleansing.”

“The topic and thinking grows out of my work in Berea,” Hoag says. That work included participating in national seminars and presenting at national and regional conferences, as well as regularly teaching a course at Berea in human rights and international law.

Emeritus President **Lyle Roelofs**, who retired in 2023, and **Ron Rosen**, who

retired in 2019 as a professor of biology and Mabel D. Worth Chair in Science, continue to review articles in their fields of physics and biology. In addition, Rosen has published several research articles written with former Berea students.

Former Director of Convocations **Thomas Ahrens** (ret. 2024) continues translating German-language literature into English. An excerpt from his translation of a novel by Austrian writer Sepp Mall recently appeared in the literary translation magazine *Metamorphoses*.

Sarah Broomfield ’08, who retired in 2022 as executive assistant to the dean of the faculty, continues to offer workshops on handweaving and natural dyeing and is working on a book about the 85-year history of Churchill Weavers.

Jeff Pool is completing two book manuscripts, including a lengthy introduction to the family of Christian religions (to be published by Routledge). Pool retired in 2023 as a professor of religion and Eli Lilly Chair of Religion and Culture.

the Kentucky Bach Choir and become a candidate for its artistic director. He recently conducted the choir in a program titled “Strengthened by the Spirit: from Despair to Joy.”

Roelofs has continued to knit—he was part of a faculty knitting group at Berea—and has invented a new stitch he calls “Chain of Hearts.”

George Brosi, who edited *Appalachian Heritage* from 2002-2013, is at work on two books, including a memoir titled “My Quest for the Beloved Community: An Appalachian Activist Emerges from the Sixties.”

Steve Bolster, who retired in 2019 as Mary W. McGaw Chair and a professor of music, has performed in

SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERING

In addition to writing and publishing, many retirees contribute their expertise to organizations and community projects.

Gail Wolford, who retired in 2014 as vice president for Labor and Student Life, tutored at Berea Community Elementary School and recently joined the Madison County Friends of the Library Board. “The greatest gift of my 30 years at Berea was to be part of a purposeful common effort to change lives and the world,” Wolford says. “I’ve tried out various volunteer service opportunities I thought would provide that kind of experience.”

Boyce is a volunteer research fellow two days a week at Knox Heritage, a non-profit working to save historic buildings and sites in Knox County, Tennessee.

Rosen has worked with elementary school groups visiting Berea’s Margaret

A. Cargill Natural Sciences and Health building.

Since retiring in 2015 as director of financial aid, **Nancy Melton ’72** has volunteered at Berea Home Village, a non-profit organization helping Madison Countians 55 and older to live independently at home. Her work has included taking seniors to medical appointments, grocery stores and visits with friends. “I’ve met some interesting and charming people I would never have known,” she says.

Since retiring in 2024 as associate professor of education studies, **Penelope Wong** volunteers at a University of Arizona store in Tucson, where she spends part of her year. The store’s proceeds go to UNICEF. **Bolster** volunteers at the Berea Food Bank. **Tipton** continues to serve in an environmental and guardian role managing his Red Lick Valley farm.

Judith Weckman retired in 2022 as director of Institutional Research and Assessment. She led the development of Berea Pollinator Gardens along Berea’s bicycle and walking paths. The project focuses on restoring native plants, supporting local wildlife and providing space for connecting with nature.

Professor of English (ret. 2010) **Barbara Wade**, **Libby Jones**, professor of English and **Chester D. Tripp** Chair in Humanities (ret. 2017), along with another writer, developed and co-directed *Coming of Age*, a writing project for Kentucky women over 60. The four-year program involved more than 60 women, including **Broomfield** and **Weckman**, and resulted in two published anthologies of creative work. “My work with community writers flows directly from service-leaning projects I did with my students,” Jones says.

ATHLETICS AND FITNESS

Maintaining and increasing overall fitness is an important goal for many retirees. Since retiring in 2023 as director of Entrepreneurship for the Public Good and a professor of general studies, **Peter Hackbert** has earned awards in USA Triathlon National Championship events and in nine sport disciplines in world championship contests in Australia and Spain. In August, Hackbert will represent Kentucky at the National Senior Games.

Hackbert’s commitment to athletic endeavors, which began in the 1980s, was heightened through his Berea work in leadership and entrepreneurship. “Research reveals the value of deliberate practice leading to mastery,” he says. “Mastery learning fuels us to achieve the

big goals or dreams we have in our lives.”

In addition to reclaiming activities she couldn’t pursue at Berea—kayaking and horseback riding—**Wong** has added a new activity: trail running. She is preparing for her first marathon with a distant eye on an ultramarathon somewhere in the Southwest.

Randall Roberts, who retired in 2017 as director of convocations and assistant professor of general studies, continues running regularly. He also backpacks and hikes in the American Southwest and canoes in the Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota and Canada. Other retirees engage in regular walking, bicycling, hiking and pickleball-playing.

SELF-CARE AND CAREGIVING

Spending time with family, loved ones and friends is important to retirees. Additionally, several retirees have devoted time to caring for family members and friends. These include **Robin Taffler** (director of the Work Colleges Consortium, ret. 2023), who supported her parents during the two

years preceding their deaths. **Pool** has spent time helping other retirees, providing transportation and maintaining social interactions with them. “Connecting with others is one of the major components in maintaining health in the aging process,” he says.

What Next?

The experiences of these and other retirees show that leaving Berea is not an ending but a beginning. “We must develop a compelling vision of later life,” notes Harvard sociologist Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, in “The Third Chapter: Passion, Risk and Adventure in the 25 Years After 50.” She describes those years as “a time of potential change, growth and new learning, a time when our courage gives us hope.”

Indeed, Berea College retirees continue to contribute to the community and the larger society; to develop themselves intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and physically; and to discover new ways of being.

Alumna welcomed back to celebrate mid-year graduates



Photo by Crystal Wylie '05



Photo by Jay Buckner
Speaker Vivian Hairston
Blade '85

Berea College recognized 98 students during its December Mid-Year Recognition Ceremony.

Vivian Hairston Blade '85 served as the speaker. She is a highly regarded leadership expert and Certified Speaking Professional with a passion for helping organizations and individuals thrive in the ever-changing world of work.

Blade's Berea experience cultivated and enriched her love for business, service and music, preparing her for a remarkable career. As a student, she sang with the Chapel Choir and performed at events like the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee.

With more than 20 years of leadership experience at Fortune 500 companies such as Humana and GE and leading her own company, Blade developed a deep expertise in business strategy, finance and leadership. Her dedication to building strong, service-driven organizations is matched only by her commitment to helping others succeed. Through coaching, consulting and leadership engagement programs, she empowers leaders to confront challenges with confidence and resilience.

Blade also is an adjunct professor at the University of Louisville, where she mentors the next generation of leaders. Her best-selling books, "Resilience Ready, Influence in Talent Development" and "Fuel Forward" are trusted guides for professionals striving to grow and make a meaningful impact.

Blade remains deeply connected to Berea College. She is the youngest of six sisters who graduated from Berea. Her husband, Vance Blade '82, serves as a Trustee, and she has several other extended family members who graduated from Berea.

Blade frequently returns to campus to mentor students, sharing her story and encouraging them to strive for excellence. Her journey is a testament to the transformative power of education and the lasting values instilled at Berea.

Berea College begins construction to replace Edwards Building



Photo by Crystal Wylie '05

This fall, work began on a new building to replace the Edwards Building on Berea College's campus. The original building, dedicated in 1902, was demolished in July 2023 when officials determined the existing building had structural problems and renovation costs were not feasible.

The interior will provide an overview of the Foundation School, which long occupied the Edwards Building. The exterior will include architectural touches that come from the original Edwards design. A cornerstone display will include bricks from the original building.

The first floor of the new building will offer dedicated student spaces with flexible, modern learning and gathering rooms. The second and third floors of the building will house the philanthropy units of the College's Alumni, Communications and Philanthropy division. It will also house offices for Alumni Philanthropy staff.

Additionally, the new building will be LEED Silver certified, incorporating building occupant health and wellness design strategies not typically required by current building codes. Other sustainable goals will be met by concentrating on energy efficiency, thermal comfort, water use reduction, the use of natural lighting and recycled materials.

"With direction and feedback from our campus community, the building design does a wonderful job in paying homage to the original Edwards Building endeared by so many," said Rich Dodd, director of project management.

In January, the campus community and Foundation School alumni were welcomed to sign the final beam to be placed in the building.

A time-lapse camera over the site allows viewers to capture construction as it progresses. The feed can be found at <https://www.berea.college/edwardsbuilding>.

Grow Appalachia announces 2025 Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellows

Grow Appalachia, a strategic initiative of Berea College, is honored to announce four regional foodways practitioners selected as 2025 Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellows. The program is designed to honor, celebrate and support foodways tradition bearers in central Appalachia who have made significant and long-term contributions to sustaining and supporting the foodways heritage of their respective communities.

The Appalachian Foodways Practitioner program is a collaborative initiative among Grow Appalachia, Mid Atlantic Arts Central Appalachian Living Traditions (CALT) Program and the Appalachian Studies Association. The program awards \$5,000 to fellows to support their ongoing learning and community-based foodways programming. Fellows must be located in counties within the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) service area.

The 2025 Appalachian Foodways Practitioners Fellows are:



Chris Smith

Smith lives in western North Carolina and serves as the executive director of the Utopian Seed Project, a nonprofit dedicated to crop trials that aim to celebrate food and farming.

Within this work, Smith collaborates on The Heirloom Collard Project, hosts a seasonal Trial to Table event series and publishes Crop Stories, a crop-specific multimedia project. His book, "The Whole Okra," won a James Beard Foundation Award in 2020, and he is the co-host of The Okra Pod Cast. Learn more at www.utopianseed.org.

Marcus West

West is from Cowee West's Mill Community in Franklin, North Carolina. His family roots have been in the Appalachian Mountains since the early 1800s. He and his father, Adam West Jr., carry on their family's farm traditions today. He is blessed to have his 81-year-old father still working alongside him to butcher and raise beef and grow crops to survive.

Ronnie Marie Tartt

Described in "Black By God—The West Virginian" as "her ancestors' wildest dream," Tartt is a shining example of the culmination of love, resilience and ingenuity in human form. She has become a mother to her entire community through her food, instruction and example.

As a wife, mother, homemaker and caretaker in McDowell County, West Virginia, Tartt learned from the matriarchs in her family that food means far more than just sustenance. It serves as a testament to strength, resilience and creativity. She honors her elders by continuing the foodways practices of growing food and preserving these traditions by canning and drying, ensuring her family and the surrounding community are well-fed, well-prepared and aware of the necessity of food sovereignty. In her most recent role as an entrepreneur, Tartt has launched the inaugural product, Mama's Sauce, with Appalachian Gold, a Black-owned company dedicated to celebrating the rich agricultural and culinary cultures of Appalachia.

The New Opportunity School for Women—Sam Cole '11

Sam Cole is a proud native of Lee County, Kentucky, where she learned about planting by moon sign as a young child from her farming grandparents and parents. She began working for the New Opportunity School for Women (NOSW) in 2024 as the development and communications coordinator, making a valuable addition to the NOSW staff after an impactful term as a board member, helping to guide the organization through the changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For nearly 40 years, NOSW has worked in the region to uplift and preserve Appalachian culture. In addition to teaching gardening, nutrition, health and canning, NOSW also assists women in striving for their own goals. These skills are more vital now than ever. Cole holds a Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Appalachian literature from Berea College, which has deepened her understanding of not only the region but also the importance of her own culture.

Share the Heart of Berea

CLASS NOTES

Volunteer to host
an Alumni gathering
in your area!

Whether it's your first time or you're a seasoned host,
we will walk you through the process.

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Connect with Faith Calhoun-Louden '03 for easy step-by-step guidance on hosting an Alumni gathering in your area!
859-985-3183 | calhounf@berea.edu

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.

1957

Roger and **Mary Meece** are almost 90 years old and have been married 70 years.

1960

Sylvia Barnett Johnson's husband, Charles Johnson Jr., passed away in Detroit, Michigan on Sept. 1. They had celebrated 64 years together in August.



1962

Dr. Celia Hooper Miles announces the publication of her 12th novel "Eight Nights at the Harris Hotel." It is set in the Scottish Outer Hebrides, and its elderly protagonist reveals a turbulent life (spanning some 70-odd years) while she and a young island girl assigned to care for her are determined to solve a murder at the remote hotel. Available on Kindle and from the author. <http://celiamiles.com> or celiahoopermiles@gmail.com

1964

Libby Culbreth, **Dr. Celia Hooper Miles '62** and **Dr. Valerie Bauhofer '62** met up at summer reunion 2024.



David B. Nolle co-authored an article titled *Islam and ethnic tolerance: assessing Kyrgyz' Muslim religiosity and acceptance of Uzbeks in Kyrgyzstan* which was published in 2024 in the academic journal *Central Asian Survey*. Read more: <https://bit.ly/40dZHYd>. Some of his other academic articles on topics such as Muslim religiosity, race and ethnicity, and/or statistics are listed here: <https://bit.ly/3UqnuAx>. Nolle lives in a Maryland suburb of Washington, D.C., and welcomes email at dbnolle@frontiernet.net

1965

Joyce Minnix Bolender continues to work part-time as a social worker and completed her third book, a book of poems called "Love is My Favorite Color." All three of her books are on sale on Amazon.

1970

Freda Laverne Richards Cook, Fd. '66, is a retired systems analyst, married to **Sylvester Cook '68**.



1974

William L. Davis was inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame on Nov. 11, 2024 and is listed in "Marquis Who's Who in America 2024." His life of leadership and accomplishment began in Talladega, Ala. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4igcDm8>



1979

Dr. Elizabeth Elaine Hatton (Bradshaw) Correnti and her husband, Dr. Lawrence Correnti, had a good year in 2024. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and welcomed their first grandchild. She published a book "King James Virgin: A Holiness Memoir," about her experience growing up near Berea in a Pentecostal Holiness family. She retired from the U.S. Army in 2004 and works as a psychiatrist in the Georgia State Hospital system. She can be reached at eehcmd@outlook.com.



1985

Judge John Graham of the Jackson County Circuit was awarded Alabama State Bar's Judicial Award of Merit at Alabama State Bar's 147th Annual Meeting in Destin, Fla. According to the Alabama Bar Association's website, the Judicial Award of Merit, "is not necessarily an annual award. It must be presented to a judge who is not retired, whether state or federal court, trial or

appellate, who has contributed significantly to the administration of justice in Alabama.” Read more: <https://bit.ly/3EVggQ0>

1987

Amy Hutchinson Zucker and her husband, James, celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary on Oct. 13, 2024. They received a post-Mass blessing from Father Baiju Paul, OSFS. Photo by Jakob Zucker.



1992

Titus Awokuse was named vice provost and dean for international studies and programs at Michigan State University. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4bg7ZSJ>

1994

Dwayne Smith is the senior vice president of security and chief information security officer at VensureHR. He is a member of the Cyber Security Hall of Fame. Smith was also recently recognized by his peers as a Top Global CISO for 2024 from *Cyber Defense Magazine*. This is his second consecutive win. Smith recently spoke at Berea College’s alumni panel in November 2024. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4g2lw14>

1998

Danny and Jessica (Starcher) Burdine relocated to Ruckersville, Va., in June 2024. Danny is now director of operations at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

2001

Nicole Black Wilson graduated with a master’s degree in clinical mental health in May 2024. She is a licensed professional counselor at a private practice in Columbus, Ohio, where she resides with her husband, **David Wilson**, and their three children.

2002

Regina Fugate is a doctoral candidate pursuing an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction in computer science education from the University of Florida.

2004

Lynn Patterson Klett graduated from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro on Dec. 12, 2024, with a doctoral degree in nursing practice. She works in Greensboro, N.C., as a pediatric nurse practitioner in primary care.

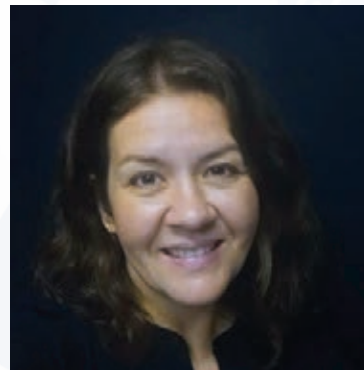


2005

Angela Godsey Stephens had her artwork accepted to the Team Kentucky Gallery Fall 2024 exhibit displayed July through December 2024 in the Kentucky Capitol Building. This is the second Team Kentucky Gallery exhibit to include Stephens’ work. The first was the Fall 2023 exhibit that was on display July through December 2023. Her artwork was also included in the Kentucky Arts Council’s 2024 Governor’s Derby Exhibit displayed in the Kentucky Capitol Rotunda May through July 2024. Stephens began painting in 2021 and is mostly self-taught. She enjoys painting rural Appalachian landscapes and connecting with other artists at local arts council organizations. Her artwork is shared on social media as Angela Joy Art and www.angelajoyart.com. Stephens and her husband, **Jeremiah Stephens ’07**, live in Berea with their two Yorkie pups, Lucy and Lilly. She has worked for the nonprofit Fahe (www.fahe.org) for more than 10 years.



Arwen Mills Careaga lives in Lexington, Ky., with her four children. She has been a licensed acupuncturist since 2012 and recently opened Revitalize Therapeutics, where she treats patients with acupuncture, cupping and other manual therapies and herbal medicine. www.revitalizelex.com



2010

DJ Swiney and his wife have been married for a little more than 12 years. Unfortunately, they lost the baby they were expecting. Swiney is still teaching special education at North Greene High School in Baileytown, Tenn.

2011

Melissa Benson has a new role as a Veterans’ Health Information Exchange (VHIE) engagement coordinator for Fordhall Technologies and her poem “Sick Day” was published by Backwoods Literary Press in their new anthology, “Discarded.” “Discarded” is a reclamation of the narrative of rural and small towns and reservations across the United States including the works of 63 artists with place-based relationships to 27 states. Informed by the front porch and the frontlines, this anthology explores the power of narrative-shaping in the face of erasure, blame and discredit. For more information visit www.backwoodsliterarypress.com

2014

BIRTH: a daughter, Roselyn Monroe Schroader, born to **Ashley Thomas Schroader** and husband, **John Schroader**, in February 2024.



R.B. Smith released a debut novel following their career in healthcare when the pandemic hit, meeting parents in their vulnerability fighting their mental illness, and more than 20 years of lived depression. This guide will empower people with the tools to survive when life feels pointless, to thrive when life feels precious. “Pandemic depression: What to do when you don’t give a f*ck anymore”. Available at Amazon.



2016

Dr. Kaitlyn Reasoner recently published an article regarding her experience as a new resident during the COVID-19 pandemic at Vanderbilt University. It encapsulates the experiences of healthcare workers during that tragic time. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4gWda6P>

2023

Autumn Young was selected by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for the 2024 Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) International Alumni Seminar in Brazil. The seminar focuses on public and private sectors related to STEM Entrepreneurship. Entrance to the seminar was highly competitive, with 350 applicants for 50 spots.

CORRECTION

Carolyn Coffee Pennington is class of ’70, not ’97.



SUBMIT CLASS NOTES

To submit class notes and photographs, scan QR code or go to:

www.berea.edu/alumni/class-note

SAVE THE DATE

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NOV. 21-23, 2025

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ALUMNI

James T. Bartlett

Nov. 7, 2024

James (Jim) Theodore Bartlett, 87, was a Berea College Trustee from 1987 to 2005, serving in the roles of chair of the Investment Committee, vice chair of the Board and honorary trustee. His leadership, business and financial acumen and passion for helping others profoundly impacted countless others. Berea’s financial strength and the continuity of our mission owe much to Bartlett and his contemporaries.

Born in Washington, D.C., most of Bartlett’s early years in the 1940s were spent with his mother and brother, Dick, in small Florida towns. Bartlett attended Mamaroneck High School where he enjoyed stimulating classes, numerous leadership roles and success on the athletic field. Bartlett went on to graduate from Amherst College and

Harvard Business School. His time at Mamaroneck, including an opportunity for a summer in Europe with the American Field Service, led to a lasting belief in the power of an excellent education.

Bartlett’s business career began with McKinsey and Company in New York. While there he married Hanna Higgins. They moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where McKinsey had just opened an office. Over the next 18 years the Bartletts moved between New York, Boston and Cleveland, where Jim became president of Cleveland Twist Drill and, subsequently, president of its parent company, the Acme Cleveland Company.

In 1985, Bartlett became managing director of Primus Venture Partners,

the first venture capital firm between New York and Chicago, investing in the service and technology industries.

After his retirement, Jim and Hanna moved to Boston before settling in Lincoln, Massachusetts. Bartlett continued investing in private companies and, most recently, served as a director of a promising pharmaceutical start-up, Criscot.

Bartlett is survived by his wife, two children and three grandchildren, who brought light to his life by their presence. He was known for his sense of humor, love of telling stories and ability to connect with individuals from all walks of life by showing more interest in them than in himself.

Dr. Steve Boyce

Jul. 12, 2024

After a 10-year journey with leukemia, Stephen Scott Boyce, 82, passed away at his home in Lexington with Patty, his wife for more than 59 years, at his side. Boyce will be remembered as a dedicated advocate for people and the environment; consummate educator-mentor; thoughtful trickster; and beloved friend, husband and father.

Boyce grew up in Indiana and attended Earlham College. Following Earlham, he proposed to Patty and went on to earn his master’s degree and Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin. In 1969 he joined the faculty at Berea College where he served with distinction, both in the mathematics department

and as academic vice president and provost, retiring in 2003. He went on to enjoy a second career as an activist and advocate, and in 2014 his contributions were honored with a lifetime achievement award from Kentuckians for the Commonwealth.

Positions and prizes, however, hardly scratch the surface of Boyce’s character, warmth, insight and care. Whether counseling students, puzzling out a solution to a crisis or plotting the overthrow of evil with good, Boyce was reliably meticulous, thoughtful and compassionate.

He thought to the depths few others went to, and he brought forth pearls few others found. He strove to see

the possibility and potential in others, even when they could hardly discern it themselves. He led others without condescension and educated without arrogance. Inquisitive and intellectually gifted, his character was beautifully tempered by his passion for building a better world and his compassion for all who live in it. He was a truly good man, exuding character with wit, wisdom with warmth and humility with an open heart.

Steve’s memory will be cherished by generations of students, colleagues and friends as well as his wife, Patty; children, Anthony (Vicky), Kristin (Mariano) and Nathan (Heidi); and his grandchildren, Aidan, Maxwell and Leo.

Staff & Faculty

Jack Gordon Marema
Financial Aid (1974-1992)
Dec. 18, 2024

Dr. Tammy Lynn
Clemons ’99
Professor of Peace and
Social Justice Studies
(2020-21), Sustainability
Coordinator (2005-2009),
Executive Assistant to the
President (2001-06, 2011-12)
CIE Admin (2010-11)
Jan. 4, 2025

1940s

Dr. James M. Dowdy ’49
Nov. 11, 2024

1950s

Mary Ogle Bremier ’51
Nov. 23, 2023

Rev. James John ’51
Oct. 22, 2024

Joan Rich ’52
Oct. 30, 2024

Elizabeth Westall ’53
Sept. 17, 2024

Gladys Carrier ’54
Dec. 8, 2024

Fred H. Greenberg,
Ph.D. ’55
Aug. 10, 2024

Junior F. Poling ’55
May 20, 2024

Jean Hunter ’56
March 18, 2024

John W. Leeson ’56
Dec. 24, 2024

Margaret Sammons ’56
Sept. 23, 2024

Glen W. Higgins ’57
Nov. 16, 2024

Thelma Edith Foley
Wilson ’57
March 9, 2024

Roy Lonzo Gibbs ’58
Oct. 23, 2024

Paul D. Morris ’58
July 17, 2024

Joseph Michael Wilson
’58
Oct. 17, 2024

Daniel Dudley Hance ’59
Aug. 21, 2024

1960s

Ruby Myrtle Absher ’60
Oct. 20, 2024

Arvil Crase ’60
Oct. 11, 2024

Judith Ann O’Mara ’60
May 7, 2022

Dr. John Vandaveer
Payne ’61
Aug. 19, 2024

Dr. K. C. Potter, II ’61
Aug. 26, 2024

Calvin Sammons ’64
Aug. 28, 2024

Jane Walters ’64
April 12, 2024

Dr. Nigel John Roger
Allan ’65
Nov. 25, 2024

Sondra C. Marcum ’65
Oct. 27, 2023

Sam Benge ’66
June 26, 2021

Phyllis C. Hughes ’66
Nov. 12, 2024

Mary Ann Johnstone ’68
Jan. 2, 2025

Huberta Carolyn Pate
’68
Oct. 16, 2024

Bonnie Baker Potz ’68
Sept. 5, 2024

Gwen Blackmer ’69
Nov. 2, 2024

1970s

Maureen Bryant ’73
Nov. 28, 2024

Darrel Paul Griffin ’75
July 22, 2024

1980s

Theodore T. Harlan ’81
Nov. 26, 2024

Glenn Wesley Baker ’84
Dec. 3, 2024

Cynthia Khoo-Robinson
’88
Jan. 3, 2025

1990s

Omar Ebrima Njie ’95
March 2, 2024

Dr. Tammy Lynn
Clemons ’99
Jan. 4, 2025

2000s

Rebecca A. Paull ’00
Nov. 19, 2024

2010s

Lauren Michelle
Cameron ’15
Dec. 11, 2024



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Periodical postage paid at Berea, KY and additional mailing offices.
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Sean Hall '25 and Evelyn Medley '25