

Connector

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Grand Opening of the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service

The Board of Trustees of Berea College will officially mark the opening of the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 22, 2002, from 12-1 p.m.

Extensive renovation of the Bruce and Trades Buildings has created office and program space on the second floor of both buildings, now joined by the completion of the connector with its magnificent three-story glass front.

“Connector” has become a symbol, of the work CELTS does in connecting campus as well as community, and of the dominant architectural feature of the renovation project.

Established in 2000, the Center coordinates and supports all of the college’s service learning initiatives and programs. CELTS connects the college to the Appalachian region and beyond, in order to promote individual and community empowerment, educational opportunity, and a more just world.

CELTS represents Berea’s commitment to excellence in service and in learning. Across the curriculum, students learn more deeply

by applying their knowledge to help solve real-world challenges. CELTS aims to educate students for active citizenship, working closely with the Appalachian Center to develop service-oriented leaders for the region.

CELTS programs provide many opportunities for thoughtful, committed citizenship:

- ◆ Learning through service in the classroom. Staff teach and assist faculty in developing courses in which students hold placements with local community organizations, or design and carry out projects in collaboration with the community.
- ◆ Student-led service programs. These programs are staffed by students in their labor positions. They both recruit and direct volunteers.

CELTS staff and students organize alternative spring breaks and weekend service trips. They also help students identify service-related internships and opportunities to serve while studying abroad.



Bruce and Trades before (top) and after (above) renovation. The Connector joins the two buildings.

- ◆ Educational opportunity. Several programs help students from Appalachia overcome class, social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education.
- ◆ CELTS also coordinates responses to short term service needs and emergency requests.

Other resources provided to the campus and community include a service opportunities data base, an electronic newsletter, a library, and public events and workshops.

"Service learning is not course-led community service. Service learning is not simply volunteer work. Service learning is not pre-professional field work. Service learning goes beyond all of that and must be woven into the concepts of a course and a curriculum."

Dr. Edward Zlotowski
October 10, CELTS

What is Service Learning?

Service-Learning is the process of involving students in community service activities combined with a facilitated means for applying the experience to their personal and academic development. It is different from other forms of experiential education in its reciprocal and balanced emphasis on both student learning and addressing community needs.

Course materials and reflection inform the student's service, and in turn the service experience informs academic dialogue and student comprehension. Students work on real problems that make learning relevant while simultaneously enhancing their social skills, analytical ability, career development, and civic and ethical responsibility.

Service Learning in the Curriculum

Appalachian Women's Leadership

Helen Lewis, one of the founders of Appalachian Studies and the service learning movement, returned to the College during January Short Term to co-teach a course on Appalachian Women's Leadership with Dr. Mendel-Reyes, CELTS Director.

The month long course concentrated on the role of Appalachian women as leaders in past and present struggles for social justice in the region. According to Lewis, the class explored ways that women leaders "tend to recognize both community and individual needs and combine education and development to link personal and community growth."

The highlight of the course was a week-long trip throughout Central Appalachia to meet with women leaders and learn about opportunities for service. Led by Lori Briscoe, Associate Director of the Appalachian Center, and Donovan Cain, CELTS Service Learning Coordinator, the class traveled from coal mining towns to a Cherokee reservation to a land trust whose residents practice sustainable community development.

During the course, Lewis shared her experiences in the civil rights movement and in opposing strip mining and the broad form deed. Her return to campus provided a unique opportunity for students to



Lewis

learn from a person who not only is a scholar, but who played a significant part in regional history.

A celebration of Appalachian women and the work of Dr. Lewis was held on January 18, with a public lecture, banquet and entertainment by the Reel World String Band.

The Fall Term

CELTS has been busy over the past semester providing support to faculty interested in making service part of their teaching. Donovan Cain, CELTS Service Learning Coordinator has been working with community partners to identify possible placements and provide assistance to faculty interested in developing and implementing a service learning course or component. As more faculty realize the value of service experiences in bringing theory to life—more are beginning to use the service learning model.

In General Studies 137, "Service, Citizenship, and Community", taught by CELTS Director Dr. Meta Mendel-Reyes, students were required to complete 4-5 hours of service in the community per week.

Through reflection upon their experiences, the course introduced students to challenges of service and citizenship; helped them become more effective community members; and made them aware of possible careers in community development and the non-profit sector.

Student placements included: the New Opportunity School for Women, Kentucky Environmental Foundation, Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises and the Berea Senior Citizens Center.

Also during the Fall, Spanish professor Dr. Fred de Rosset's "Spanish 310" used language skills to assist the growing Hispanic community in Central Kentucky. The class worked as translators and staffed Health Fairs and Screenings. In addition, each student was required to complete a service project or placement.

Two students drove to Richmond once a week to work at the Bluegrass Farmworkers Health Center, which provides medical assistance to migrant farmworkers. Other students worked with ESL programs including an after-school tutoring program coordinated through Berea's Office of Special Programs with Kirksville Elementary School in Richmond, which has the highest number of bilingual students in Madison County.

Service Programs in CELTS

Bonner Scholars Program

Fifteen incoming students each year are offered the opportunity to participate in the Bonner Scholars Program during their four years at Berea College. Bonner Scholars are chosen based on their records of academic and community service achievement. They fulfill their labor requirement through positions in service either at the College or in the community. In addition, they participate in leadership training, regional conferences and service events, receive financial assistance for summer service, and have access to resources through the Bonner Foundation. Upperclassmen are accepted if spaces become available.

Students for Appalachia (SFA)

Founded in 1968, SFA is a campus service organization and a labor department with 30 student positions during the academic year and 20 during the summer. Teams of students coordinate five programs during the year (Berea Buddies, Teen Mentoring, One-on-One Tutoring, HEAL—an environmental and social justice program, Adopt-a-Grandparent and three programs during the summer (Summer Day Camp, Berea Reads, and Berea Counts). SFA provides ongoing leadership training, sponsors an annual community-wide food drive and hunger awareness week, initiates a wide range of projects and educational programs, and networks with local and national service groups.

People Who Care

People Who Care (PWC) sponsors weekly trips (usually on Saturdays) to hospitals, homeless shelters, residential facilities for children, and other institutions where students serve in various capacities. Three student coordinators, who have their labor positions with People Who Care, organize and oversee the trips each semester. Berea students may volunteer on a weekly basis or as time permits throughout the semester. Although PWC is sponsored by the Campus Christian Ministry office, it is not a religious organization.

Habitat for Humanity

There are five student coordinators of the campus Habitat for Humanity chapter, which is also sponsored by the Campus Christian Ministry office. These students fulfill their labor requirement through coordinating student volunteers who work with the local chapter of Habitat, which builds homes for low-income families. There are many opportunities for students to volunteer throughout the year with Habitat in Berea, Madison County, and beyond.

Special Programs

The Office of Special Programs partners with college departments and regional organizations to meet the educational needs of participants ranging from preschoolers to retirees. Programs take place both on campus and in surrounding communities, and include: Networking Lunches, Elderhostel, Berea Forum, Secretaries Day, GEAR-UP, and PIE.

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a partnership between Berea College and Rockcastle County School System, Forward in the Fifth and School-To-Work Local Labor Market 16. Under a federal grant GEAR UP provides services to the Rockcastle County school system, particularly at the middle school level. College students work during the academic year and during the summer as mentors and/or tutors to middle school students. Both labor positions (two) and volunteer opportunities are available.

PIE (Partners in Education) brings together Berea College, the Madison and Rockcastle County school system, the Housing Authority of Richmond, the Richmond Arts Council and Forward in the Fifth. The mission is to lift the educational aspirations of Appalachian and minority youth, and to help them fulfill their academic potential. Berea College staff and students meet twice weekly with students after school to build academic and social skills. Participating students come to campus once a month during the academic year and for two weeks during the summer for academic and enrichment activities. College students are involved in planning the Saturday and summer events and provide tutoring and mentoring during the after-school programs. Both labor positions (two) and volunteer opportunities are available.

TRIO

Berea College sponsors three federally funded TRIO programs: Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound, and the new Carter G. Woodson Math and Science Institute. These programs serve primarily low income Appalachian and African American middle school and/or high school students. TRIO programs provide students with activities designed to introduce them to college life, nourish their academic interests, motivate them to achieve far beyond their expectations, and support their belief in themselves and their abilities. Eight student labor positions are available in the academic year and twenty positions in the summer; internships are also encouraged.

"What unbelievably powerful things, the heart and hand of a child. They managed to teach me to give until it hurts, because that is what everyone we serve deserves. They taught me to give when I didn't want to and then to eventually want to. They broke down a level of self-centeredness and forced me to focus on others. They showed me how much God can bless us through others if we are only willing to ask and look for it."

Sarah Hooks, '03
Summer Volunteer, Women
in Need Day Care Center,
New York City



Students lead a workshop during the 2001 Campus Outreach Opportunity League conference in Boston.



CEELTS staff participate in an all-day workshop/planning session at Berea College's Windswept.

"Service is a big part of my life. My plan after college and graduate school involves some form of service, possibly in the field of Social Services. My job has helped me gain experience in being around a wide variety of children of different ages. I feel that not only was this job fun, but extremely beneficial."

Ben Bryant, '04
2001 SFA Day Camp



SFA Day Camp, Summer 2001

Summer Service

Each summer a number of Berea College students spend their summers serving communities across the U.S. and sometimes beyond. Summer service is a requirement in the Bonner Scholars Program. Campus Christian Ministries, the College internship office, and the career center also assist students in finding summer placements with non-profit organizations. Other students simply make their own arrangements through agencies in their home towns, or through family and friends. Summer service is often a very intense learning experience and can be truly life-changing. CELTS is happy to work with students in finding appropriate service sites. Listed are some of the

sites where students spent the summer of 2001:

- ◆ At Berea College: SFA, TRIO Programs, Special Programs, and recycling.
- ◆ Peacecraft, Berea, KY
- ◆ March of Dimes, Ashland, KY
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity, Paducah, KY
- ◆ Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- ◆ Justice Works Community, New York, NY
- ◆ Cup of Cold Water Ministries, Caranavi, Bolivia
- ◆ Literacy for Environmental Justice, San Francisco, CA
- ◆ Geneva Family Resource Center, Geneva, NY
- ◆ Madison County Cooperative Extension Agency
- ◆ Women in Need Daycare Center, New York, NY
- ◆ Shepherd Poverty Alliance: Atlanta Union Mission; N Street Village, NYC; William Byrd Community House, VA; Cabin Creek Health Clinic, WV; Kingsley House, LA.
- ◆ Alabama Environmental Council
- ◆ Springs of Joy Safehouse, Liberty, KY
- ◆ Global Change Education Program Internship, Department of Energy
- ◆ A.D. Lewis Community Center, Huntington, WV
- ◆ Baptist Church International Project, Butuan City, Philippines
- ◆ ArtsCamp, Berea Arts Council
- ◆ Upward Bound, Atlanta, GA

Student Spotlight

Esther Martinez

Esther Martinez, '03, student staff member of Special Programs and a Bonner Scholar, teaches a Spanish class at the High School in Mount Vernon on Tuesday nights. About eight students, mostly adults, regularly attend the class. Most of the people taking the class are doing so simply because they want to learn Spanish, not because it is job related. This evening Spanish class marks Esther's first experience teaching a class in which the majority of the students are adults much older than herself, so she has altered her former teaching style in order to make the class more appealing to them. In class, Esther plays games and sings songs with her students to facilitate the learning and recollection of words, but these activities are approached in a more sophisticated way than they would be with younger students. Currently, the class is learning the words for days of the week and months. Because the class meets only once a week for two hours, Esther does a great deal of reviewing of what was learned in the previous lessons before beginning a new topic. This approach is working well, as her students continue to return week after week and are learning at a rapid pace. Esther is very pleased with the success of the class.

When interviewed, Esther said, "I love teaching, and I find teaching adults is just as fun as teaching younger students, and I have a unique group of adults full of life and laughter. From one student I've heard stories of skinning rabbits. Another is always keeping me updated on current events. There are a mother and daughter that are always picking on each other and bringing smiles to the class. One student rattles off her Spanish and uses as much as we've learned. It's pretty amazing. Then there is one who has just gotten back from a two-week trip to Nicaragua, and I am anxious to hear how that adventure was. There are a couple of quiet students that I'd say know the most Spanish and they help the class along when we decide to buckle down and get serious about learning. The class is a wonderful variety of ages and characters and I always look forward to Tuesday nights when my ears are filled with stories, my stomach with laughter, and I get to teach a little Spanish, too." With the class being successful and enjoyable for both teacher and students, Special Programs intends to continue to offer Spanish and, perhaps, other night classes to the adults in Mount Vernon.

Contributed by: **Jeannine Mann, '02**

From Fields to Fiesta, a Day with Baldemar Velasquez

CELTS sponsored a convocation with Baldemar



Baldemar Velasquez and Aguilera Negra Band

and his band, the Aguilera Negra Band, also performed that evening.

Velasquez, founder and current president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), AFL-CIO, on November 29, 2001. He

Velasquez, who began working in farm fields at age 6, gained national attention in 1967 when he organized farm labor in northwest Ohio. In 1979, FLOC was formally recognized as a labor union of farm workers in the Midwest.

Beginning in 1978, FLOC organized a strike against Campbell's Soup that lasted eight years. Velasquez advocated a boycott of Campbell's products and led a march from the tomato and

pickle fields of Ohio to the company's headquarters in Camden, NJ. When the strike ended, Midwest farm workers had won historic collective bargaining agreements.

In 1994, FLOC was granted a charter by the AFL-CIO. More than 8,000 workers are now represented by FLOC under union contracts. Also a guitarist and singer, Velasquez has recorded Mexican folk songs combined with songs from

the FLOC movement of the past 33 years.

In recognition of his 40 years as a leader for social justice, Velasquez has received several awards. In 1989, he was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, and in 1994, he received the Aguila Azteca Award, the highest honor the Mexican government awards to a non-citizen.

For additional information on Mr. Velasquez or FLOC, visit www.iupui.edu/~floc/

Program Spotlight: Partners in Education

Throughout the school year, PIE partners with Kirksville Elementary School to offer individual tutoring to students who are learning English as a second language.

Through this service learning opportunity, Berea College students—many of whom are

education or Spanish majors—mentor the children and encourage them to practice English. Once a week the children travel to Berea, where they combine learning with fun as they play games, have snacks and get help with homework.

The Program provides Berea students with valuable hands-on experience while meeting a community need. This year, the students mentored 17 children, who speak Spanish, Dutch, Croatian, Albanian, Chinese, Japanese and French.

"I had no idea what environmental justice meant before my first day there. I had no concept of toxic or even environmental health. Even being an agriculture and natural resources in sustainable systems major, I didn't know what food security truly meant. I just knew that I needed something that brought together my passion for environmental issues and social justice. I found that and more at Literacy for Environmental Justice."

Stella Lawson, '03
Intern, LEJ, San Francisco

Service Workshop on Learning in the Disciplines

Dr. Edward Zlotkowski, Senior Associate at the American Association for Higher Education and nationally recognized expert on service learning in the disciplines, led a Faculty Workshop at CELTS on October 10, 2001. The workshop, which was attended by over 20 Berea faculty and staff, focused on incorporating the pedagogy of service learning into the curriculum.

Participants spent part of the afternoon listening to a lecture and discussing service learning with Dr. Zlotkowski, and then broke up

into small groups to try to develop a service learning class and syllabus. The event was followed by a "Meet and Greet," for local community partners, faculty, and students. CELTS will be offering future workshops to assist faculty, students, and community partners.

An additional resource for course design is the AAHE monograph series, *Service Learning in the Disciplines*, edited by Dr. Zlotkowski. The CELTS resource library contains the series, which is 18 volumes and growing.



Dr. Zlotkowski discusses service learning with Berea College faculty members.

"There are so many moments that stand out this summer. Most of them are centered on the service projects that we did with the kids. While I was glad that we decided to add them to the week, I wondered at first if we would have a difficult time convincing the kids that service is necessary and vital to our community. To my amazement, until the last session, we didn't have a single kid who protested the service project. One of the kids in the last project wanted to collect money to buy pizza for us. After we told them the money we raised would go to flood victims in eastern Kentucky, she was one of the most vocal in getting people into the car wash."

Christina Baker
Smith, '04
2001 SFA Day Camp



Volunteers collected 8,000 pounds of food for the Berea Food Bank on November 3, 2001. This food helps 200 Madison County families to get through the winter.

T H E F A L L T E R M

Up Close and Personal

Students for Appalachia (SFA) has been a student led organization on Berea College campus for over 30 years. While the organization has changed in many ways to help meet the needs of the community, it has remained true to its original mission of empowering students to serve the community around them. Today, SFA has five ongoing student-led programs that employ around 30 students and have over 150 volunteers. The programs consist of Adopt-a-Grandparent, Berea Buddies, HEAL, One-on-One Tutoring, and Teen Mentoring. Each of these programs reaches out to

various groups throughout Berea and the surrounding area.

All five of the SFA programs have been extremely busy this past semester and many are facing new challenges. One-on-One Tutoring has recently experienced a huge increase in the number of students that they are now tutoring. They currently have 40 students in the community being tutored by Berea College students; this is nearly double the number from last year. Program Manager Bobbie Berry feels that the increase is not due to a greater need for tutors in Berea, but rather, the community is

becoming more aware of the service. The staff of One-on-One Tutoring has been working to be even more prepared to effectively tutor by attending the SCALE conference during October in Raleigh, North Carolina. Tutoring staff member, Corina Bullock, summed up the importance of what SFA does, "Even more important than the academic material presented to the children in tutoring is the one-on-one attention they receive from the volunteers. This seems to be a vital aspect of all the programs in Students for Appalachia."

**Contributed by:
Ashley Small, '02**

Upward Bound is a program on the Berea College campus that is designed to assist students in obtaining higher education after high school. These students are generally from low income families and generally their parents did not attend college. Upward Bound is structured mostly around its summer program, which provides students with a sample of college life free of charge. The students not only take classes during the summer time, but also they participate in a variety of activities. The summer begins with a mystery trip, where the students spend a weekend in a variety of places unaware of where they are going until they arrive. With many other fun activities in between, the summer program ends with a trip to Kings Island, an amusement park in Cincinnati.

When the school year begins in the fall, Upward Bound remains in contact with the students of the past summer. Tutor Counselors are responsible for a certain county of students, including, Clinton, Laurel, Madison, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Wayne, and Whitley. The counselors teach Enrichment Sessions, a variety of lesson plans, twice a month for two hours each. Also the students are responsible for attending monthly reunions. These reunions are beneficial to the students because they are

able to see all their friends from the summer and also they are able to ask Upward Bound advisors and Tutor Counselors any questions they may have about the college process.

Upward Bound holds most of its reunions on the Berea College Campus. So far this year Upward Bound has held three reunions. In September students were responsible for setting up goals and evaluating their skills. For the October reunion, Upward Bound took the students to Ohio where they watched "The Phantom of the Opera," went shopping at the Fayette Mall, and had the opportunity to visit a college fair representing a wide range of colleges and universities. The most recent reunion was held on Campus in November. This reunion included students from the Woodson-Institute/Upward Bound program. These students were able to join us from many different states and were able to spend one night in Berea. Upward Bound has an upcoming Reunion in December and also one more Enrichment session. Rather than a lesson plan at this Enrichment session, Upward Bound will provide its students with money to celebrate and have a holiday party. The students will decide as a county group where they would like to go.

Contributed by: Crystal Baldwin, '03

T H E F A L L T E R M

Up Close and Personal

For decades, members of **People Who Care** have been making a difference in the lives of others. Fall of 2001 has been no exception. This term, we have visited with the children of Shriners, played basketball with clients of Oakwood Center, and shared our hearts with the elderly at Berea Health Care. In October, we had a Halloween party for Eastern State Hospital patients; the ward was full of smiles, laughing, and excitement. While playing games with the patients, we snacked on chips, cookies, and other goodies. As we were leaving, patients ran up to hug us. With only a few hours of our time, we had given them the love they needed to carry them through the week. One new volunteer said, "I never knew how valuable a few hours of my time could be to

someone else." The term ended with a Christmas party for a local spousal abuse shelter; we wanted to end the term with as much excitement as it began.

For Spring 2002, we have several outings planned. In January, we went to the Hope Center in Lexington. At the Hope Center, we served lunch to homeless members of the community. Then, in March, we are having our annual Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Fundraiser; last year, we raised almost \$500 to aide in treatment and research. We are always looking for smiling faces and warm hearts; for, the more volunteers we have, the more lives we can reach.

Contributed by: Vanda Cook, '03

From the CELTS Student Chaplain

Service work in today's society is often labeled as just a good thing to do for those who have the time to do it. However, for some Berea College student chaplains service work is something much more valuable, not to be distilled from the mix of life's obligations. By incorporating service into their lives, each has been provided with valuable lessons in building understanding, supporting communities, building faith and working to be more compassionate people.

One individual devoted to service is student chaplain, Sascha

Sanderlin. As an education major, Sascha has incorporated his acts of service with his education and career goals. While he is currently preparing to become a teacher, Sascha is involved with Students for Appalachia's One-on-One tutoring program. This program reaches out to children from surrounding schools in the community who need help with sharpening their learning skills in reading, math, or any other subject. Sascha believes that as a Christian it is important to devote energy and faith to the entire community. "Service isn't hard," he commented. "It is not some

amazing feat but rather, just something that should be done."

For student chaplain, Chrissy Cataldo, working as a summer intern at the Calvery Bilingual Multicultural Learning Center in Washington D.C. was an intensive experience in service, teaching, and learning. Supported by those devoted to social justice, the learning center provides children, many of whom are from immigrant families, with a variety of enrichment opportunities that they would not necessarily be provided with in any other way. As a leader, Chrissy helped provide stability for



Deborah (right) selling ribbons to benefit Red Cross relief efforts.

the children in ways that they might not have had otherwise. Working with such a diverse group of children allowed her the chance to gain a better understanding of this community's perspectives. In doing so, she helped to breach the boundaries created between those who have and those who do not.

Contributed by: Deborah Payne, '02

The **Bonner Scholars Program** is an opportunity for students who are interested in community service to reach out and be involved in various service learning opportunities as their labor position for Berea College. After the first year as a Bonner serving in the SLIP and Edge programs, Bonner Scholars can choose to serve the community in many different service organizations. Some of these organizations are within Berea College, others are out in the community. Highlighted next is just one of the many positions held by the Bonner Scholars.

Jacqueline Price is the Senior Intern in the Bonner Scholars Program. She acts as the Bonner Student Coordinator and has been a Bonner for four years. Currently Jacqueline is piloting a program named Women Uniting for PEACE, aimed at meeting the many needs of the women on the Berea College campus. She is a senior Biology major with a Women's Studies minor, and said that she heard so much about the

things that women on campus were going through and "finally just decided to do something about it." And so she created PEACE, a program geared mainly towards preventing physical, verbal, and sexual violence against women. It also is involved in educating the public about these issues and providing support for women in need. PEACE is making its presence known by leading SGA Open Forums on violence and depression, starting WATCH (a support group for women dealing with anything from depression to past or present violence), performing an anonymous mini survey ranking issues that affected women, and beginning a publication called Voices for and about women's issues. Voices will contain poems, essays, testimonies, and other various articles submitted by women on various topics. If you would like to submit an entry to Voices or become involved with any aspect of PEACE, please call Jacqueline at ext. 3746.

Contributed by: Leslie Kovach, '03

In the Spotlight

Dr. Meta Mendel-Reyes

In each issue of the Connector, we will introduce you to a CELTS staff member. For our first issue, the Spotlight is on Professor Meta Mendel-Reyes, Director of CELTS.

Meta arrived in Berea, KY in July, 2000 to assume the position of Director of CELTS and Professor in the General Studies Program. Meta is new to Appalachia, having previously lived on the West and East Coasts. She grew up in the San Francisco Bay area of California, received her B.A. degree in politics from UC Santa Cruz and an M.A. degree in political science from UC Berkeley. There followed a number of years when she was far from academia. Meta became a field representative with the United Farm Workers of America, working with Cesar Chavez organizing farm workers in the San Fernando Valley, and then with the Service Employees International Union, and the Communications Workers of America, also in California.



Mendel-Reyes

Eventually, however, the teacher inside called her back to the classroom, first to work on a Ph.D. in Political Science at UC Berkeley, and from there to accept a teaching position at Swarthmore College near Philadelphia as Professor of Democratic Theory and Practice and Director of the Democracy Project. The mission of the Democracy Project was to “encourage students to deepen their understanding of and commitment to democratic participation in a multicultural nation, through community action.” That statement comes close to describing Meta’s work here at Berea College, as well.

Meta is committed to service learning as a means of actively involving students in the learning process and of offering them experiences in democratic participation as members of a learning community, inside and outside of the classroom. She is the author of *Reclaiming Democracy: the sixties in politics and memory* and an avid fan of the WNBA.

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