

Connecting Campus and Community

# Connector

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## New Grant for Service-Learning

The Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service (CELTS) has received a \$60,000 three-year Learn and Serve America Grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Berea College is one of six colleges and universities participating in a consortium headed by Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. The purpose of the Learn and Serve Grants is to institutionalize academic service-learning on the recipients' campuses. The other members of the consortium are: Case Western University, Gettysburg College, La Sierra University, Long Beach City College, and Pacific Lutheran University. Academic service-learning combines community service or community based research and rigorous reflection, in order to enhance student learning and to meet identified community needs.

A substantial portion of the grant money will support Faculty Fellowships, beginning spring 2004. The Fellowship will provide a \$1,000 stipend to a faculty member for developing a new service-learning course (including community-based research), or revising an existing course to include a service-learning component. The course would then be taught during the next academic year. Other responsibilities of Fellows include participation in seminars to deepen understanding of service-learning and to provide support for course development, and to mentor new Fellows the following year. There will also be funding for traveling to conferences. In addition, the grant will support mini-grants to faculty and community partners working on a collaborative project.



**LeKeishua Arthur, Gina Patrick and Aleda Hapes presenting their Service-Learning project.**

According to CELTS Director Dr. Meta Mendel-Reyes, the evaluation and assessment components of the Grant are timely for CELTS, now in its fourth year at Berea College. "The Grant will guide our work over the next three years as we strive to further institutionalize and broaden academic service-learning at Berea College," says Mendel-Reyes.

For more information about the Grant or the next round of Fellowship applications, contact Ashley Cochrane, Service-Learning Coordinator, at ext. 3605. *Betty Hibler*

## Youth Involvement Award presented

The American Red Cross, Daniel Boone Chapter, presented a Youth Involvement Award to Berea College at their Annual Meeting on December 30, 2003. The Award acknowledged the service-learning and work-study partnerships between the Red Cross and Berea College in 2003. The award was accepted by Angela Evans, '04, who has had her labor position with the Red Cross through SFA all during her Berea College years and is a Red Cross First Aid and CPR Instructor.



**Angela Evans (second from left, top row).**

## Service Learning in the Curriculum

Students, faculty and community partners were busy this fall semester with a variety of service-learning projects, which included:

- **MGT 315:** Business Management, Professor, Debbi Brock. Students developed and distributed bilingual brochures for the Bluegrass Farmworkers Health Center and conducted a clothing drive for the New Opportunity School for Women, among other projects.
- **CFS 221:** Fundamentals of Nutrition, Dr. Janice Blythe. Students studied hunger on local and global levels, while addressing hunger issues in the Berea community by participating in the annual Hunger Hurts Food Drive, and by helping coordinate the Oxfam Hunger Banquet.
- **GST/WST 244:** Service, Citizenship, and Community, Dr. Meta Mendel-Reyes. Students researched organizational history for the Kentucky Environmental Foundation, collected oral histories for the Harlan County PACT (Partnerships Affirming Community Transformation) Project and helped with the Hunger Hurts Food Drive, in addition to other projects.
- **BST/GST 230:** African-Americans in Appalachia, Professor Paula McGhee. Students collaborated with the AAABC (African Americans of Appalachia and Blount County) program in east Tennessee to collect and preserve the history of African Americans in this predominately white community. Students also traveled to Blount County where they met with community members and service-learning students from Maryville College.
- **CSC 205:** Introduction to Computer Science, Dr. Jan Pearce. Students created web pages for local non-profits and small businesses.
- **HLT 210:** Health in Appalachia, Professor Kris Wright. Students collaborated with the Madison County Health Department and the Berea College Counseling Center to produce educational presentations, addressing a variety of health issues relevant to the Appalachian region.
- **NUR 343:** Nursing of Women and the Childbearing Family, Professor Elaine Blizman. Students collaborated with the Madison County Health Department to help run a free Hispanic Health Fair at St. Clare Catholic Church. Flu shots and diabetes and cholesterol screening were offered to those who attended the fair.

There are others at Berea College who are doing service-learning and community-based research projects. CELTS wants to know about the work you are doing! Whether you are a faculty, student, or community partner, let us know about your service-learning work by contacting Ashley Cochrane, Service-Learning Coordinator at ext. 3605. If you are a faculty member interested in developing a service-learning component in a course or if you are a community member with an idea for a service-learning partnership, Ashley is available to assist in the development of these projects.

## Service Learning Workshop

On October 16, CELTS hosted a workshop about community-based research, funded by a grant from Just Connections, Inc. and by a Learn and Serve America Grant (see related article on page 1). This was part of a continuing effort to provide opportunities for professional development in service-learning for the Berea College community. Earlier workshops have addressed service-learning in the disciplines and models of course construction.

The presenters at the Community-based Research Workshop were Dr. Stephen Fisher and Marie Cirillo.

Dr. Fisher is the Chair of the Department of Public Policy and Community Service at Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia. He spoke about his professional and personal journey to integrating academics and activism. He also described the development of the Department of Public Policy and Community Service, and explained that the course of study in this department integrates academic and community service goals. He stressed that the place-based model of

education used in this department includes three components: reflection, social justice, and collaborative partnerships with the community. He observed that this learning model provides students with experiences that help them realize they can become agents of change now. This also gives them incentive to stay and work in the Appalachian region after graduation.

Marie Cirillo is a community activist who has worked to address local issues in the Clearfork Valley of northeast Tennessee for over 30 years. She has been instrumental in the development of many programs in her community, ranging from a land trust to a community research and learning center. At the workshop, she summarized her work by stating, "I build the capacity of rural people to do for themselves." She focused her message on the relationship between communities and college partners, asking important questions about the challenges of this learning exchange.

The workshop ended with faculty sharing ideas for future service learning projects and discussing possible



**Dr. Stephen Fisher and Marie Cirillo.**

collaborations. Most of the faculty at the workshop are already incorporating service learning into their academic work.

Future workshops about service learning and community-based research are in the works! CELTS has also received a grant that will support additional professional development as well as stipends for course development (see cover article). Be on the lookout for more information!

*Ashley Cochrane*

# Free Trade or Fair Trade?

## CELTS looks at NAFTA

On October 24, 2003 CELTS hosted Marco Antonio Torres, a labor organizer from Mexico, and Nikki Thanos, Witness for Peace International Team member from Mexico. Torres is a former sweat shop worker who was the featured speaker on a Southeast Speaker's tour. Dr. Michelle Tooley, Lily Professor of Religion and Board Member of Witness for Peace, arranged for the team to visit Berea. Torres gave a first hand account of the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on the lives of average Mexicans. He described declining wages, environmental degradation and an increase in poverty despite the promises of prosperity that proponents of NAFTA made. Having labored under sweat shop conditions, Torres expressed his concern about the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the danger that it poses for people of Mexico, especially since it is modeled after NAFTA. According to Torres, ordinary Mexicans, who suffer the most from NAFTA, are doing what they can to create change, but they need the efforts of Americans to work along with them. He challenged us to join the effort to work for fair trade practices.

This program was made possible by the collaboration of CELTS, HEAL, the Department of Philosophy and Religion, and the International Center. It could not have been more relevant because Torres and Thanos came on United Nations Day. Torres' concerns about the danger posed by the FTAA are shared by many,



**Dr. Michelle Tooley, Nikki Thanos, Gyudé Moore and Marco Torres.**

not only in Mexico, but throughout the entire hemisphere. Rioting and demonstrations occurred in Miami in November when trade officials from the hemisphere met to discuss the agreement. Because many countries are expressing their reluctance over this agreement, the U.S. announced plans for separate trade agreements with Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Panama and Columbia. In a related development, the US Trade Representatives and their Central American counterparts entered the final phase of another trade agreement, Central American Free Trade Area (CAFTA).

Marco Antonio Torres and others like him see the potential of trade to reduce poverty and suffering. They are not opposed to trade as a whole. They however oppose the unfair trade practices and policies that place profits over people and support corporate interests over the environment and human need.

*Gyudé Moore, '06*

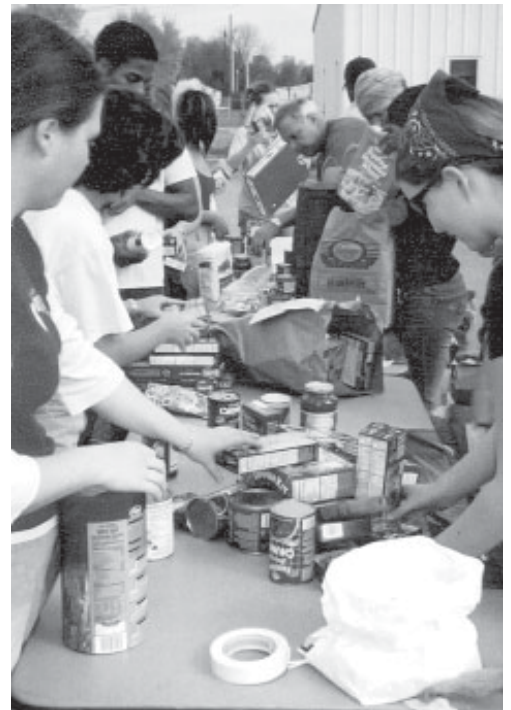
## Bread for the World Regional Organizer Speaks to Students

Larry Hollar, the Kentucky regional organizer for Bread for the World, spoke to students and staff at the CELTS Labor Meeting on Thursday, October 9. Bread for the World (BFW), an advocacy organization in Washington, DC, is a Christian voice for ending hunger and has been engaged for the past 30 years in seeking justice. A nonpartisan citizens' movement of 48,000 people of faith, including 2,500 churches, BFW members help hungry people by lobbying our nation's decision makers on legislation that addresses hunger in our communities and around the world.

Mr. Hollar spoke about two current campaigns: Congressional funding for the Millennium Challenge Account and HIV/AIDS relief for Africa. The Millennium Challenge Account will give humanitarian aid to the poorest countries in the world and increase the total amount of US foreign assistance. For more information, go to BFW's website at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

Learning about BFW's advocacy work was one of the fall semester's series of events focusing on hunger locally and around the world. Other events included the 11th annual Hunger Hurts Food Drive on November 1 to benefit the Berea Community Food Bank, and the Oxfam Hunger Banquet on November 17 to replicate the dinner table of families around the world both to educate and to raise money for hunger relief.

*Betty Hibler*



**Berea College students and staff sort food during the 11th Annual Hunger Hurts Food Drive at the Berea Community Food Bank in November.**



**Beth Williamson (and friend) posed for the camera in 1999 during the SFA Summer Day Camp program.**

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Beth Williamson, '01**, works for the Lexington Community Action Council. Her title is Children's Services Coordinator. Beth is also in the Family Studies Program at the University of Kentucky working on her Master's in Child Development and her IECE teacher certification.

**Angela Anderson, '02**, also works for the Lexington Community Action Council. She is a Head Start teacher at the Kiwanis Center. Angela is in the Family Studies Graduate Program at UK, as well.

**Kylene Penick, '02**, has completed her Master's in Education at Eastern Kentucky University. She is currently substitute teaching in Madison County Schools. Kylene was married in November. Best wishes, Kylene!

**Kristy McCord, '01** works for the State of Kentucky in Clay County and for the Community Action Council at the Kiwanis Child Development Center. Kristy coaches the Redbird Girls Basketball Team and also got married in November. Congratulations, Kristy!

*We would like to hear from all of our Alumni! If you would like to share any information with us, please do so by contacting Sheila Lyons at CPO 2170, Berea College, Berea, KY 40404.*

**"I don't think service should be what you're doing, but rather why. If you are at a summer camp with kids and you hate kids, but are there because your girlfriend is, is that really service? Or is service an administrator of a hospital who truly works with all his heart because he cares about the sick? When I graduate in the spring, I hope to take with me the things I have learned about service. Having a paying job does not mean that it is not service, it is my attitude towards what I do."**

**Leslie Kovach Buchanan, '04**

## Program Spotlight: **Berea Buddies**

Berea Buddies is a mentoring\* program sponsored by Students for Appalachia that matches children ages 6-12 with a Berea College "Big Buddy." Buddies meet once a week (Mondays or Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m.), first sharing a meal at the college food service, then getting down to the serious business of having a good time.

Berea Buddies started in the fall of 1990 in cooperation with Campus Ministries. It was modeled after Big Brothers and Big Sisters and called "Berea Friends." The original program had 10 active volunteers. The program has since grown and now matches approximately 50 college students with local children.

After sharing a meal, Big and Little Buddies choose an activity for the evening. Some might go to the library, swim, play racquetball, cook, do artwork or play games. There are also some organized activities throughout

the semester like art projects, service projects or movies.

If you would like to participate in this program, please contact the Berea Buddies staff at 985-3805.

*Sheila Lyons*

*\*A mentor is a trusted friend committed to a one-on-one relationship that focuses on the needs of a young person. The emphasis of mentoring is on fostering a caring and supportive relationship that enables the mentee to develop into his/her fullest potential. The process involves a willingness to share and give of oneself.*



**Big and Little Buddies participated in the second annual Berea Buddies/Teen Mentoring Halloween Party.**

## Student Spotlight: Trinaye Pierson

First semester her freshman year, Trinaye Pierson walked by a table in the Alumni Building and was stopped by Berea Buddies' staff members recruiting volunteers for the year. While she tried to protest that she already had a lot of brothers and sisters and didn't really need any more kids in her life, she finally agreed to give it a try. Now five years later, Trinaye continues to work on the Berea Buddies staff with Students for Appalachia.

Trinaye's first semester as a volunteer did not go completely smoothly; still there was something that kept her coming back to a program that matched college students with local children and brought the children on campus one evening every week to spend two hours with their Big Buddies. In the spring, she applied for a labor position with the Buddies program and was hired. Trinaye's years on staff included one year when she served as Program Manager. She has also volunteered with the Adopt-a-Grandparent program and helped each year with the Hunger Hurts Food Drive.

Trinaye is a Nursing major from Birmingham, AL. She says that her work with the Buddies program continues to help her in clinical settings as she calls on her previous experience in dealing with similar problems with children and families that she faces now in a new setting. This past summer, Trinaye was selected for a Vanderbilt University summer nursing externship. After graduating in 2004 and passing the Nursing Board exam, Trinaye plans to work as a pediatric nurse. We already know she's definitely good with kids!



**Trinaye Pierson works hard for the Berea Buddies program.**

*Betty Hibler*

## Trio Program Students meet Steve Berger, Holocaust Survivor

**“I could not even begin to imagine the pain and the torment of having to be killed because you belong to a different religion or belief than other people.”**

**Alisha Abner**

Carter G. Woodson Institute

For Alisha Abner, meeting Holocaust survivor Steve Berger had a profound impact on her summer with Trio Programs and her understanding of the complexities of life. She was not alone in her discoveries, questions, and encounters. All Upward Bound (UB) and Carter G. Woodson Institute (WI) students had the opportunity to meet and engage in dialogue with Holocaust survivor, Steve Berger.

Mr. Berger spent a week at Berea, visiting the campus and various departments. He actively participated in events the program held for him, including a banquet and public address. Perhaps his greatest contribution was the large amount of time he devoted to working with the UB/WI students. He challenged and encouraged students to understand the complexities of the Holocaust and the importance the event still holds today. Students interviewed Steve for their newsletter, had daily meals with him, and one student wrote



**Holocaust survivor Steve Berger and Trio Director Mary McLaughlin.**

her senior essay topic about the experience of meeting him.

The students and staff had a unique opportunity to meet a man who survived a great atrocity and to hear his message of concern and hope. When the Holocaust survivors are no more, someone must be left to remember, to try to prevent acts against humanity.

*Erin Yearout-Patton, '04*

### War

Shots firing through the morning mist,  
Children praying for daddies they miss,  
A soldier lying wounded on the ground,  
With violence, commotion all around,  
Children screaming, begging, and  
asking why,  
All their loved ones had to die.

*Maxine Vaughn*

# Service Reflections

## A Summer of Service at Markey Cancer Center

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to work in a nursing extern position at UK Medical Center. This established program is called SNAP, Summer Nurse Apprentice Program, and involves pairing one nursing student with a working nurse on the floor. The two then work as a team and have a mentor-mentee relationship. It was a great learning environment for me because of the small size and thoroughness that the nurses brought to the experience.

Working with cancer patients, I thought that my summer would be full of people questioning life and God. Although I did encounter this, I noticed more that people simply lived through their rough times as they lived through their easy times. If a man had been chipper and a jokester his whole life, leukemia did little to change that. On the other hand, if a man was never satisfied with his accomplishments and bitter about everything, even a small case of pneumonia would be the end of the world.

As a Christian myself, I paid special attention to the spiritual battles that were going on in my patients. Something that I expected to see, but didn't, was a person who makes a U-turn in their life and comes to God after being given a poor prognosis. What I did see, however, was those with a relationship with God grow closer to Him.

Again, these were only things that I saw. There was no way of knowing what went on when no one was in the room. I was very surprised at my observations and what I learned about people this summer. I prayed for many of these people to seek healing of their broken spirits. I considered this a large part of my service while I was working with them. Even now, I still find myself thinking about them.

I chose Markey because I really do believe in "learning through service." I did want to help others, but I also wanted to help myself so that I may help others better. The skills, techniques, and time management that I learned this summer were priceless.

*Leslie Kovach Buchanan, '04*

## "It Was a Good Summer"

people ask how my summer was  
it was good, i say

people use the word good  
out of context  
and it blurs the meaning  
ice cream is good as in tasty  
i am good as in well  
but my summer  
it was good as in good  
as in, there were stars in the sky  
and wind in the trees  
a breeze blowing thorough the air  
hands to hold mine  
and God to dwell in my heart and soul  
feeding my spirit  
with a passion of calm  
gentle happiness content in life

my work and my play  
were one and the same;  
my joy

and my closest friends  
in whom i confided  
with whom i laughed  
to whom i cried;  
became a family

my pictures are the realities of my  
dreams  
i lived this summer;  
a heavenly breeze  
a song to the Lord  
a prayer for a new day  
a glimpse of truth  
thou hast for me

thought  
felt  
breathed  
questioned  
changed my perspective  
heard my voice

i listened for God's voice  
singing through the woods  
and children of God's creation  
speaking in my heart  
i listened to God's voice  
speaking in my heart  
and my trust in God became  
the wings with which i could fly

it was good

now granted  
let's be real  
i went into this summer  
dead set  
that it would be my last  
summer at gordonwood  
set in my stubbornness  
looking for a purpose  
in my failure to see  
what had been set before me

but,  
by the end  
i knew i will return  
these words have been set on my heart  
"in his heart a man plans his course,  
but God determines his steps"

my journey sent me along the path  
with the knowledge that  
amidst all of the laughter  
tears, water, wind, and fire  
i had withstood the storm  
and reached the calm eye  
where i could see that  
really i had become  
me

it was a good summer.

*Megan Bay, '06*



**Megan gets acquainted with children during an annual service trip in Louisville.**

## Service Reflections

### Summer of Service in Costa Rica

This summer I was fortunate enough to travel to the beautiful country of Costa Rica. This was made possible through both the Berea College Bonner Scholar Program and the Berea College Internship Program. I can never express my gratitude to the college and to the Bonner Foundation for making this opportunity available to me. This summer doing service work with the Costa Rican Humanitarian Foundation has been one of the greatest experiences of my life.

My time working in Costa Rica was split up between many different projects. I never worked completely solo, but the group size varied by project. For the majority of my time there I worked with only one partner, Leah Devine. Leah is a fellow student and Bonner. Together we supervised and managed two service sites for the Foundation. Our primary service site was a day care center in the Nicaraguan refugee squatter neighborhood. At the day care we were in charge of creating a schedule for the kids, along with helping to improve the quality of care provided. The other service site entailed teaching English to and mentoring a group of children from an orphanage in Santa Anna, Costa Rica.

At both of these service sites Leah and I were given complete control over what would be done. Some suggestions were given, but otherwise it was up to the two of us to figure out what the service sites' needs were and how to address them. The orphanage was fairly easy in this aspect. Both Leah and I have some background in teaching and tutoring. Therefore, it was easy for the two of us to draw up lesson plans and come up with creative ways to teach English.

The day care was more of a challenge. We worked alongside the day care providers; however, when we were there they basically turned control of the center over to us and were our aids. This made our planning easier, allowing us a specific time amount to work with, as well as a lot of freedom to do what we wanted. This also gave the workers a break in the mornings, which they well deserved.

The whole experience was really amazing. Within the group of volunteers I was able to make some good friends, with whom I plan on keeping in contact. What I think I learned the most working in these various groups is that everyone has a different way of approaching a task. When working in a team one of the most important skills to develop is finding ways of cooperation and compromise so that the team can be effective. Another important experience for me was being put into the leadership role. Taking the lead in situations has often been a hard thing for me, but in this instance I was able to take the lead and be not only satisfied, but successful.

*Kevin Ward, '04*



**Leah Devine (front row, middle) and Kevin Ward (back row, middle) in Costa Rica.**

In addition to the three main projects, we also spent a week distributing 10,000 pairs of shoes throughout the country as part of the 'Shoes for Shoa' project that aimed to both educate the Costa Ricans about the Holocaust and remind them that everyone deserves to be treated fairly and justly regardless of race, religion, or any other factor that can be used to divide a population and eventually destroy it.

This summer taught me a great deal about myself including the fact that I enjoy working with young children. Each experience correlated with the others and gave me a well-rounded view of Costa Rica's social settings and the ways a U.S. student can work to help improve the lives of children who could someday be the country's leaders. I look forward to returning to Costa Rica next summer and enhancing the friendships and working relationships I have there.

*Leah Devine, '05*

**“A team is so much more than just a group of people talking to one another and shouting commands, but a group that listens and adds input no matter how crazy it might sound. Any input, no matter how big or small, is important to the group as a whole.”**

**Brandon Kennedy, '06**

## In the Spotlight

### Betty Hibler

Betty Hibler joined the SFA/Bonner Scholars staff June 1, 1999, moving to Berea from Burlington, VT, where she had just completed a Master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration. Community service and education have been two constant themes throughout her life. Born and raised in Missouri, Betty received a B.S. in secondary education from the University of Missouri and a Master's in American History from the University of Cincinnati.

Although she has been in the Berea area only four years, she has already made very significant contributions to community life. Through her church, on the board of the Boys and Girls Club, and as a member of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Betty has enhanced the lives of many in Berea and in Madison County. She has gone well beyond her job as the director of both Students for Appalachia and Bonner Scholars and Associate Director of CELTS. She involves students in volunteer service activities



**Betty Hibler**

that have benefited the local community, the Appalachian region and beyond.

In speaking about her philosophy of service and learning, Betty says, "I believe that all levels of education have a mutual responsibility to prepare students to be thoughtful citizens who are committed to the common good, because in addition to our personal and professional lives, we all share a common role as citizens of our communities, our nation, and our world. Caring about our lives together must be of primary importance."

Betty says that she draws her energy and inspiration from the students she is privileged to work with at Berea College. She credits her parents as role models who lived their lives as good neighbors and involved citizens in the small rural community where she grew up.

In her spare time, Betty likes to read, travel, cross-country ski, hike, and she sings in both her church and the campus faculty/staff choir. She has a daughter and a son.

*Sheila Lyons*



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