



# Connector

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## First Book Madison County



Can you remember the joy of receiving your first book? Not a book that belonged to a school or a library. Do you remember the joy of receiving a book that was yours and yours alone? Perhaps it was the *Berenstain Bears* or *Clifford: The Big Red Dog*. Whatever the case, the elation that you felt upon receiving your first book is an undeniable emotion. However, many young children are left without this simple joy.

Since it began a year ago, First Book – Madison County, a program coordinated by the Bonner Scholars program at Berea College, has already distributed five thousand children’s

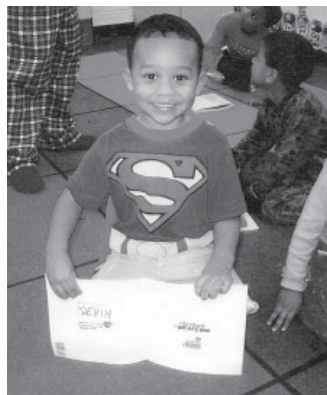
books to local child care organizations including Madison County Headstart, Stepping Stones Daycare, Berea Reads, Berea Buddies, and the One-on-One Tutoring Program at Berea College.

The week of March 1-6 marked a week of wonderful literacy events planned for the Berea Community by the local First Book Advisory Board. The theme of the week was “Seussebration,” in conjunction with “Read Across America Day” and the 100th birthday of Dr. Seuss, noted children’s author, on March 2nd.

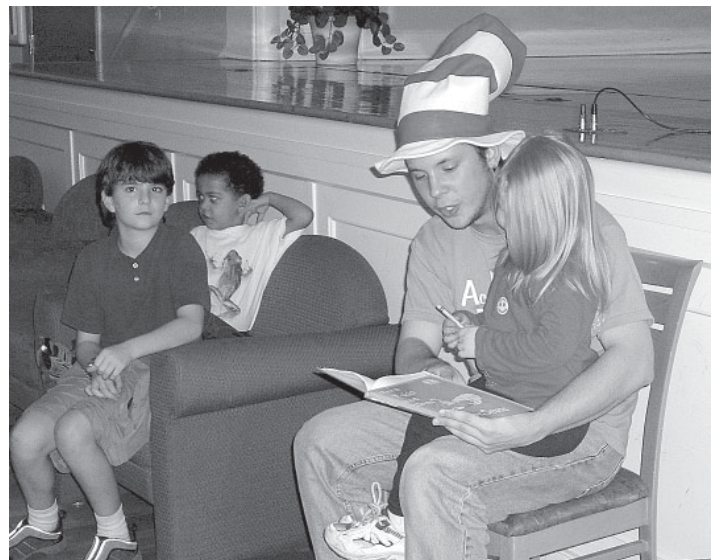
On Friday, March 5th, First Book hosted the first annual Green Eggs and Ham Dinner in the Woods-Penniman Commons here at Berea College. The event was open to families, students, and community members. Along with enjoying a delightful meal, participants were also treated to Dr. Seuss readings and a raffle of Dr. Seuss items.

First Book – Madison County would like to give a big thank you to all the volunteers and participants who helped to make a successful week of Seussebration and literacy promotion.

—Jose Gonzales, '07



**First Book recipient Donnie Devon Parker shows off his new book at Kentucky River Foothills Head Start.**



**Thomas Evans, '05, First Book Madison County Coordinator, reads to a little girl at the Green Eggs and Ham Dinner held on March 5th.**

**Please see related article on page 6.**

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# Service Learning in the Curriculum

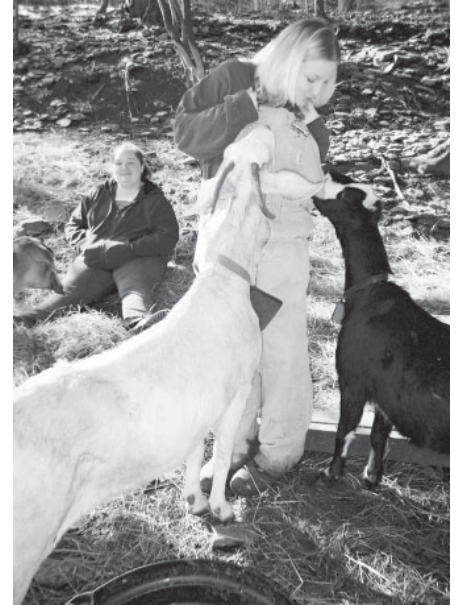
During January term 2004, Professor Dianne Hellwig led three students in a service-learning collaboration with members of the Clearfork Community Institute in Eagan, TN. The course, titled ANR 308, Support For Limited-Resource Agricultural Producers in Appalachia, provided students with an opportunity to learn about a rural Appalachian community in northeast Tennessee with a long history of grassroots community development.

The students spent a week living and working with community members and learning, in particular, about the work of the Farming and Forestry Group. Members of the community currently raise goats, and they are working to develop a partnership with Heifer Project International. The students learned from community members about the land, animals, and resources in the community. Along with community members, they researched possible sources of support, including Heifer Project, the National Resource Conservation Service, and other regional networks and information sources. Together with community members, the students developed recommendations for land use, animal use, and possible next steps toward the community's goal of developing sustainable sources of income.

Carol Judy, a member of the Farming and Forestry Group, reflected on the collaboration: "I was impressed with how Dianne and the students were looking for ways to ground what they were learning from books in the reality of how it gets lived out."

One of the students in the course, junior Andrew Oles reflected, "Leaving this class, I now have a better understanding of ... how cooperation between members of a community requires selflessness and sacrifice on a daily basis if preservation of a rural agricultural life is going to continue."

—Ashley Cochrane



**Freshman Stephanie Ingram interacts with some of the Clearfork community's goats.**

## Faculty Fellowships in Service Learning

The first cohort of Faculty Fellows in Service-Learning is participating in a service-learning seminar this spring semester. The group meets twice a month to discuss readings about service-learning and related issues and to work together to develop service-learning courses. The faculty members will receive a \$1000 stipend for their participation and will teach the courses they develop within the academic year following the Fellowship. One of the Faculty Fellows, Jim Dontje, observed, "I've found the readings and discussions to be particularly useful in defining how I can make service-learning work and for clarifying which models of service learning I can use."

The Faculty Fellowships are funded by a three-year Learn and Serve America grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

CELTS will be offering Faculty Fellowships in Service-Learning again during the Fall 2004 term.

—Ashley Cochrane



**The Spring 2004 Faculty Fellows are (from left to right) professors Scott Steele, Economics and Business; Michelle Tooley, Philosophy/Religion; Deborah Martin, English, Theatre, and Speech Communication; Janice Blythe, Child and Family Studies; Rob Smith, Psychology; and Jim Dontje, Sustainability and Environmental Studies (SENS).**

Service-learning courses taught during the Spring 2004 semester include:

- **PED 245** Dance taught by Susan Spalding
- **GSTR 203** US Traditions taught by Meta Mendel-Reyes
- **MGT 315** Business Management taught by Debbi Brock
- **NUR 349** Community Health Nursing and Leadership II taught by Brenda Hosley
- **REL 211** Women in Religion taught by Michelle Tooley
- **TEC 111** Technology II taught by Brad Christensen

See the mini-grant article on the facing page for more service-learning courses!

We want to know about your service-learning course! If you are teaching a course with a service-learning component, let us know about it by contacting Ashley Cochrane, Service Learning Coordinator at 985-3605 or [ashley\\_cochrane@berea.edu](mailto:ashley_cochrane@berea.edu).



## Join us at Berea College for the 10th Anniversary National Gathering of Educators for Community Engagement June 17-19, 2004

### What is Educators for Community Engagement (E4CE)?

E4CE is a national membership organization composed of faculty, staff, community partners, and students, who strive to integrate learning and service within the diverse communities in which we work and live.

### What is a National Gathering (NG)?

The annual meeting of E4CE is a gathering of members and friends who wish to deepen their practice of service-learning through in-depth discussions with others who care as deeply about community engagement as they do. Gatherings are held in locations that foster ongoing partnerships between academic institutions and community organizations. The Gatherings last three days, during which participants share meals and living space and engage in focused discussions about their work. This year's gathering will include interactive workshops and local tours focused on regional issues, including environmental sustainability, African-American heritage, and Appalachian arts, crafts and culture. Learning circle topics include issues related to service-learning, multi-cultural communities, and community building. NGs bring together our members and friends to engage in learning, growth and change.

For more information and to download the registration form, go to [e4ce.org/NG2004](http://e4ce.org/NG2004)

**Whether you are new to E4CE or an old friend, this Reunion on the Ridge promises to be a powerful event!**

## Faculty and Students attend Regional Conferences

During the month of March, several students, faculty and community partners attended regional service-learning conferences in New Orleans, Louisiana and Cherokee, North Carolina. Along with professors Brenda Hosley and Kris Wright, students attending the Appalachian Studies Association Conference in Cherokee presented a session entitled, "Wearin' White: Health Education Through Service-Learning in Appalachia." The presentation focused on their Health and Nursing service-learning courses. Nursing senior Romeatrius Moss observed, "A small group attended (our presentation), but the people there really wanted to be there. All of them stayed for questions after the presentation, and it was then that I realized how important our projects are to the community. I really felt proud of all of us."

## Service Learning Mini Grants

Service-Learning Mini-Grants were awarded to collaborations between faculty, students, and community partners this spring. At least half of each \$600 mini-grant went to the community partner organization. The mini-grants, made possible by a three-year Learn and Serve America grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, funded the following projects:

- Students in Caryn Vazzana's ECO 350 Econometrics course worked with the Madison County Health Department to research and analyze data related to automobile crashes.
- Theatre and Education students under the guidance of Deborah Martin and Brenda Richardson led theater workshops for students at Crab Orchard Elementary.
- The SENS House and Egret's Cove, with the guidance of Richard Olson, hosted community workshops led by students and community members on straw bale construction and permaculture food forests.
- Students in Tammy Horn's ENG 275 Writing for Science and Technology class partnered with Save the Children to write regional profiles.



**Students and community members work on a straw bale construction.**

- Students in Dan Vazzana's GSTR 203 US Traditions course collaborated with the Historic Black Berea project to expand the Early History of Black Berea website.

Service-Learning Mini-Grants will be offered for the Fall 2004 semester. If you have ideas for a service-learning collaboration, contact Service-Learning Coordinator Ashley Cochrane.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Andrea Lowery Van Dorsten, '03** is teaching art classes at the Bernis School of Art which is part of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Her husband, Jeremiah Van Dorsten, '03, is in a special training program at the Air Force Academy.

**Sarah Hagans, '99** teaches Spanish at Lincoln County Middle School. She is currently working on her Rank I Teaching Certificate and has written an article for the Kentucky League of Cities, *City Magazine*, Winter 2004 Issue.

Check it out! Sarah's e-mail address is shagans@Lincoln.k12.ky.us.

**Melissa Hessel Dunn, '97** and her husband, Aaron, were recently blessed with the arrival of their new son, Elijah James. Aaron is stationed in Turkey. You can contact Aaron and Melissa at amd888@yahoo.com.

**Drake, '00 and Julie Isaac, '02** recently had an addition to their family. Brooke Cherith Isaac was born on December 4, 2003. You can e-mail Drake and Julie at adjidi@cox.net.

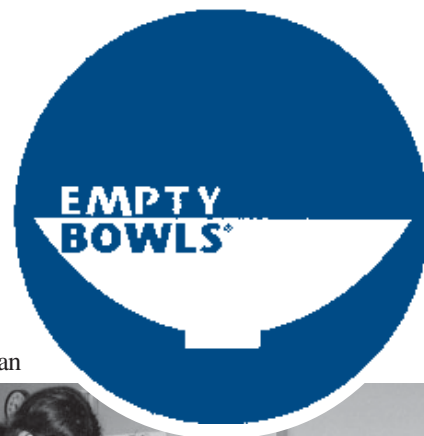
*We would like to hear from all of our Alumni! If you would like to share any information with us, please do so by contacting Sheila Lyons at CPO 2170, Berea College, Berea, KY 40404.*

## Empty Bowls

On Wednesday, April 7, 2004, the Berea College Ceramic Apprenticeship Program and CELTS brought us the second annual Empty Bowls project on the Berea College campus. Many were involved in making the event a success. There were more than 260 bowls made by the Ceramic Apprenticeship Program. Cassie Ryalls, fifth year senior and one of the Ceramic apprentices, said, "Coming from an art perspective, it is fulfilling to make a bowl for charity rather than personal benefits." Not only were there bowls made by the Apprenticeship Program, but Boone Tavern, Wanpen, and Papaleno's donated a number of delicious soups. Along with these donors, many students and staff worked hard cooking soups and preparing for the event.

The event began with participants choosing their very own bowl. Hands passed across the beautiful bowls until the perfect one was found. Then, participants chose a soup for that evening's dinner and found a seat beside old friends and new acquaintances. "It was a great time of fellowship with people who were all there for the same cause," said senior, Amanda Johnson, "It was really a good time that I will not soon forget." Adding even more energy to the atmosphere, Deborah Payne and Ryan Blevins played bluegrass music. A little more than \$2,200 was collected to go to area food banks. The food banks to receive the proceeds are Berea Community Food Bank and Friends of Paint Lick c/o Angels Food Bank. Mee Yang, senior and one of the event organizers said, "It was nice to see art and service come together to create such an event." Hope to see you all again next year!

—Rebecca Chaney, '05



**Students enjoy choosing bowls made by fellow students for Empty Bowls.**

## Alternative Spring Breaks

*During spring break, sixty Berea College students chose to spend the week in various kinds of community service in four different locations. Three of the trips were sponsored by CELTS: serving the homeless population in Washington, DC; working with the local Habitat for Humanity chapter in Benton Harbor, MI; and doing outdoor clean-up at the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in western Kentucky. The fourth trip, described below, was sponsored by the Baptist Student Union. This year, Labor and Student Life provided financial support. Thanks to all the students and to the faculty/staff sponsors for representing Berea College well.*

### Making an Impact in Inner-city Chicago

During Spring Break 2004, fifteen Berea College students from the Berea College Baptist Student Union spent their week serving and getting dirty in the heart of inner-city Chicago. The team spent their week working with Morning Star Bible Baptist and Holy Angels Church, doing cleaning and repair work on their facilities as well as helping the church with clothing and food distribution ministries to the homeless. Students spent their busy week sorting clothing, bagging food, tiling floors, having fun and, most importantly, building relationships with those they were ministering to. Many of the students gained new insights into the realities of poverty and homelessness, and all were touched by the love and hospitality that was showered upon them by the people they encountered.

While in Chicago, the team also had the opportunity to sightsee around the city, visiting the downtown area, Navy Pier, the Field Museum, and the Chicago Zoo.

Team members for this trip included Jamie Boggs, John Clay, Dennis Dow, Rebecca Finkbine, Mindy Howell, Ben Keith, Adrienne Keller, Sarepta King, Miranda Leak, Jared Manes, Arwen Mills, Cyndie Mills, Rachel Ndei, Ari Pyscher, and Angie Timberlake. They were accompanied on the trip by BSU Campus Minister Wyndee Holbrook.

—Adrienne Keller, '04

## Program Spotlight: **Elderhostel**

Berea College has been hosting Elderhostel programs for almost two decades. Elderhostel programs are one week educational experiences for older learners 55 years of age or older. Folks from across the United States enroll in one of eight programs offered per year and come to Berea to get a closer look at Appalachian culture and history. These guests stay at the historic and elegant Boone Tavern Hotel, where they enjoy regional cuisine as part of their experience.

Most of our programs deal with Appalachian heritage and include classes, demonstrations, field trips, and participatory exercises that help diffuse old, over-generalized stereotypes of mountain folks. Elderhostelers also take advantage of a fitness class in the mornings, such as Body Recall or folk dancing, because Berea College believes in educating the whole person, not just the mind. Many participants reflect on their evaluations that the fitness program is something they can take home with them to help improve their quality of life.

Mai Yang, a sophomore Asian Studies major, assists in coordinating these educational adventures. "I enjoy the energizing interaction with these elders," Yang said, commenting on her favorite aspect of her labor position. "Hearing their stories and making connections makes growing old not seem so bad. Elderhostel provides a perfect opportunity to travel around, as I get older."



**Mai Yang, '06 (center back row), surrounded by Elderhostel participants.**

Most participants leave having their own Berea experience since they learn about the College, as well as the history and culture of the people from Appalachia. Many remark that it is a well rounded program with a good variety of topics and experiences with lively entertainment that complements the subject. Incidentally, two people met and fell in love after an Elderhostel program in Berea just last year.

For more information about the various programs and how to enroll, call (859) 985-3552.

—Sherry Bosch

### Student Service Awards Announced

The Berea College Service Awards were presented on April 29 at a banquet held in students' honor at Boone Tavern. Winners included:

- **The E.R. Brann Good Citizenship Award** – This award is given annually to the student whose character and life have made an outstanding contribution to the Christian character of Berea College. This year's winner is Dara Evans.
- **Emily G. Graham Volunteer Service Award** – This award recognizes two Berea College students (freshman, sophomore or junior) who have demonstrated exceptional volunteer service during the current year. This year's recipients are Rachel Silver and Jose Gonzales.
- **The Jane Ann Kendrick Community Service Award** – This award is given to a student who, through volunteer service to the community, has accentuated the value of volunteer work and, in so doing, has improved and enriched the lives of others. This year's recipient is MeeYang.
- **The Layman Memorial Scholarship** – Awarded each year to the student who seems most likely to make a contribution to international relations and understanding. This year's recipient is William Gyude Moore.
- **The Lucille Christian and George McKinney Student Alumni Relations Council Award** – is given to a junior who is an active participant in volunteer service in the college community. This year's recipient is Luke Keeler.
- **NavyV-12 Award** – This award recognizes an international student and an American student each year for outstanding contributions to human kinship and international understanding on campus. This year's recipients are Leah Devine and Izabela Luckiewicz.
- **The Dr. Lee E. Wickline Scholarship** – Given to an education major. The recipient must demonstrate enthusiastic interest in school and community activities and have an awareness of universal human values. This year's recipient is Jessica B. Hill.
- **The Homer E. Williams Award** – This award is for campus leadership in interracial understanding. The award is given to two students, one black and one white or non-white, who demonstrate leadership qualities in all aspects of campus and student life, particularly in the promotion of interracial understanding. This year's recipients are Jeremy McShan and Patricia Feeny.
- **The Louise Veltin Memorial Award** – This award is given to a senior with a distinguished good citizen record at Berea College. Juniors, seniors and general faculty are invited to nominate a senior for this award. This year's winner is Thomas Evans.
- **Service Scholarship Award** – Adrienne Keller

# Cool Conference Reflections

## Spirituality and the Black American Male

I enjoyed the COOL Conference this year. The workshop that I held in the highest regard was called, *The Perception of Spirituality and its' Manifestations in the Lives of the Black Male College Student*. The workshop was designed to challenge the way that most of society views the Black male and to educate the attendees on how the Black male viewed spirituality.

Two images of the Black male run rampant in our society. One is an image of welfare, crime, and drugs (pimp, player, and/or dealer). The second is of musicians or athletes. Although the latter is not a negative image, we need to ask why not lawyers, doctors or CEOs. Society has labeled the Black male negatively. These attitudes have contributed to White America being frightened of and disgusted with Black males. They have also led Black males

to see no future for themselves, lack hope, and have little respect for the value of human life.

The discovery or rediscovery of Black male spirituality was then examined. Spirituality is sometimes confused with religion. Spirituality is like food, it energizes and revives and serves self. It enables and motivates the search for meaning and purpose in life. Taking part in religion is essentially possessing or conforming to that religion, which in the long run divides and doesn't represent how God has made of one blood all men. I believe that "being spiritual is in essence, worshipping a higher power through your spirit and when a person is worshipping at a spiritual level they feel it all the way down to the depths of their soul."

The session was ended by summing up that spirituality is a way of life; it has

neither beginning or ending, thus affecting everything that you do. It ultimately impacts your being, who you are, and what you want out of life. In essence it is the initiator of understanding self, which consists of mind, body, and moral structure. In the process of understanding self as an African American male there is constant struggle. Spirituality exists through struggle and the foundation of struggle is experience. The two most important constructs that impact the level and development of spirituality are belief in a higher being and the experience of life. One's level of spirituality thus becomes dependent on how an individual utilizes their experience, faces their struggles and whether that individual admits the existence of a higher being.

—Melvin Thomas, '05

**"I feel that I have the power to affect the world. I feel that each person has a place in changing injustices and changing the world in a positive way. We must know our strengths and abilities and tap into the avenue that is most successful for us."**

**Markias Littlejohn, '06**

## The New Seussation!

Once upon a time, in a not so far off land  
Were a group of volunteers who were really big fans  
Of reading and writing and sporting new looks,  
But especially of kids owning brand new first books.  
They banded together to create a new faction  
That would put the battle for reading fast into action!  
To educate, to fund-raise, to raise money their aim,  
Buying new books for children their best claim to fame.  
But how would they do this, what action, what plan?  
Then in crept the genius of one delightful old man  
He was a writer, for children, no less  
And some of his rhymes were better than best  
March 2nd was special, for certain, one way,  
It was this man's 100th birthday!  
So the volunteers thought, as they met up one night  
And they set up a party right then and just right  
To celebrate fully this man's life and works  
And his fantastic ideas and zany odd quirks!  
So off to the market they went off to beg  
And came back with dozens of yummy green eggs  
And off to the butcher to find some great ham  
Not chicken, or turkey, and surely not lamb!  
Then they invited the children, the young and the old,  
To join them for dinner and stories behold  
Of Grinches and Sneetches and cats with striped hats  
Of places you'll go and things really quite phat!  
And the children, they loved it, and the parents did, too



**Self-proclaimed "Seuss Poster Child" Kristin Falgout displays prizes given away during the First Book Seussentennial.**

And the volunteers together made a wonderful crew!  
The dinner itself was a fantastic success  
(even though the kitchen was somewhat a mess...)  
And the volunteers were happy because now they could buy  
Books about castles and kittens and spies!  
But the best thing of all, for certain, indeed  
Was that many young children would have new books to read!

—Kristin Falgout, '05

# Cool Conference Reflections

## A Freshman Reflects

I believe the intention of the COOL Conference is to empower young people. However, right now I feel anything but empowered. I feel small; I feel like the world needs help. There are so many people suffering from so many things. In Philadelphia, I sat in workshops about oppressed social groups, war, and human rights. I would then leave the workshop, with a lot of information bumping around in my head only to see a homeless man without shoes huddled over a sewer vent. What did I do, me, this supposedly concerned citizen? Nothing. I had just been told that I was going to have to be the change I wanted to see in the world, and I did not even know how to help one homeless man.

Upon reflection and a six hour stroll through downtown Philadelphia, I realized that the conference is not the answer, it's simply another catalyst. It is a

gathering of college students to inform them they can do more and we must do more. I came home inspired, not in the progress the world is making and not in myself. I am inspired by the initiative of others. I am inspired by the idea that people, many people, dedicate their lives to service. It is numbing to think of the people who give everything to others and how many of these people will never receive recognition for their work. They are the unknown heroes who have the courage to dream.

The other idea that I took away from the conference is that the service I am now doing is not enough. Yes, every hand helps, but I am capable of more. Before the conference I was confused as to what I wanted to do with my life. I am still confused, but now I have realized that I want to dedicate my life not to making money, but to service.

—JoEllen Pederson, '07



COOL participants “hang out” at the LOVE statue on the lovely University of Pennsylvania campus in Philadelphia.

## A Senior Looks Back

This past weekend is a perfect example of my befuddlement of how I fit into the grand scheme of service and what, exactly, my role is in this world. My first COOL conference in 2001, I was an eager and idealistic freshman wondering how I am going to choose between all of these wonderful workshops and how I am going to cram all of this information into my brain. I was once full of questions and the energy to ask the questions. However, I soon realized that few workshops offered the solutions they promised in the advertisements or addressed the root causes of the injustices of the world. I attended the COOL conference again in 2002 and felt my enthusiasm for the conference setting beginning to wane, but still appreciated the organized gathering of people and information into one place. Last spring I was abroad and have returned with a new intention for attending conferences. While I realize there is much to be learned, I also now realize that I have something to teach. I have experience in organizing college students around a particular issue. I have worked in coalition with people across the country to take action in solidarity with one another and have recently realized that there are skills and insight that I have acquired and am, therefore, obligated to share.

In contrast to the main focus of the conference and seemingly unfamiliar to those who usually consider

themselves associated with or interested in “service,” my workshop focused mainly on confronting injustice through a long-term campaign that targets administrative policy.

One point in the workshop that I think gave everyone some new information was the portion on environmental justice. As college students, we are not encouraged to confront our privilege that stems from being educated, often middle to upper class (with the exception of the Berea student of course), and often white. By not realizing the racial lines that exist in our society, we are ignoring an entire movement that is at the heart of environmentalism and has existed since the civil rights movement. Here I am referring to the Environmental Justice Movement. This is a grassroots-based movement in communities of color and lower income communities to address the environmental degradation that correlates with these traditionally oppressed communities. We chose to make this a focus of the workshop because there is currently an unnecessary divide between mostly white students working for clean energy on their campuses and youth of color working against dirty energy and sources of blatant pollution in their communities. We are stronger united and need to recognize our allies in these times of urgent efforts to bring about change.

—Patricia Feeney, '05

## In the Spotlight: Mary McLaughlin

In this edition of *The Connector*, we will introduce you to Mary McLaughlin, the Director of Berea College's TRIO Programs. Mary is celebrating her 38th year with the programs. TRIO includes three programs: Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search (ETS), and the Carter G. Woodson Math and Science Institute. Berea's TRIO programs help low-income students from eight Kentucky counties to overcome class, social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education. The highlight of Upward Bound is a six-week summer residential program for 100 students. The Woodson summer program brings together 60 students, half from Eastern Kentucky and half African Americans from the South, who are interested in math and science. ETS also provides summer programs, but the emphasis is on working with 725 middle and high school students in South Central Kentucky, with the goal of motivating them to stay in school and consider going to college.

Mary is a native Appalachian from the mountains of Western North Carolina. Her father was a subsistence farmer and head dairyman at the well-known John C. Campbell Folk School. Growing up on the grounds of the Folk School, Mary learned country dancing as a child. The chance to continue



**Mary McLaughlin**

dancing was a big reason for her decision to enroll in Berea College as a student. She graduated with a B.A. in Sociology, and later earned an M.A. in Counseling from Eastern Kentucky University.

In 1967, during the summer after her sophomore year, Mary began working with Upward Bound. This program, the oldest of Berea's TRIO programs, began in 1966, so Mary has had a great influence on its development. Now, the program is considered unique, due its challenging curriculum, and the involvement of Berea College students as Tutor Counselors and teachers. Under Mary's leadership, Berea College has been awarded four 5-year federal grants to continue the TRIO Programs.

Mary and her husband, Mac, have two children, and two grandchildren. At the age of one, red-haired Ayden became Mary's Personal Assistant, and is a frequent visitor to the CELTS offices. Mary is also an avid gardener.

In 1998, the association of Kentucky state TRIO programs awarded Mary its highest award: the Paul Luxmore Service Award. Mary says that her greatest satisfaction comes from "watching the kids grow up over 3 or 4 summers... Now, many of the graduates are doing something with their lives, and I've been a part of that."

—Meta Mendel-Reyes



[www.berea.edu/celts/](http://www.berea.edu/celts/)

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