



Connector

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CELTS Offers Community Partner Seminar

In the summer of 2009, CELTS offered the first Community Partner Seminar in Service-Learning. For several years, CELTS has run a Faculty Seminar in Service-Learning, and 41 professors and teaching staff have completed it. The Community Partner Seminar was made possible by a Learn and Serve America Grant that CELTS received from Kentucky Campus Compact, the state affiliation of a national organization dedicated to promoting civic engagement through service-learning.

The term “community partner” refers to a local agency or organization that works with a faculty member and students during a service-learning course. Together, a representative from the community partner and the faculty member design a project that meets both the learning goals of the course and the needs of the community partner organization. The Community Partner Seminar included participants with a great deal of experience in service-learning, and others who were new to it. The participants in the first Community Partner Seminar were Gina Chamberlain of Madison County Home Energy Improvement Program (MCHEIP); Jeff From of Re-Entry Partners (REP); Carissa Lenfert of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC); Robyn Moreland of Hope’s

Wings; Alice Reppert of the Madison County Health Department; and Jerry Workman of the Berea Community Food Bank and Bereans United for Utility and Rent Relief (BUURR).

Like the Faculty Seminar, the Community Partner Seminar involved intensive study of topics including



CELTS staff and community partners pose on the last day of the community partner seminar offered in June 2009.

service-learning theory and practice, reflection and assessment, campus-community partnerships, student perspective, and diversity. While the participants in the Faculty Seminar design a new course or revise an existing course to include a service-learning component, the community partners worked on developing a project that could become part of a service-learning course.

A Faculty Seminar in Service-Learning occurred during the same week, and the community partners shared lunch with the participants in

the Faculty Seminar, so that both groups had the opportunity to exchange their views on the qualities of strong campus-community partnerships. Faculty Seminar participants were Tashia Bradley (Black Cultural Center), Jason Coomes (Sustainability and Environmental Studies), Matt Saderholm (Chemistry), and

Althea Webb (Education Studies). The community partners also had lunch with students who had taken service-learning courses, so that they could hear directly from students about their experiences.

At the end of the Community Partner Seminar, the participants completed evaluation forms. They commented on what they had learned

and appreciated about the Seminar, as well as on ideas for future seminars. Jerry Workman, of the Berea Community Food Bank, said that he especially enjoyed “having faculty and student involvement.” One of the highlights for him was “meeting/listening to new community partners.” From the CELTS staff perspective, the Seminar was another reminder that knowledge about service-learning goes in both directions—we learn so much from the people we partner with to serve the community.

—Dr. Meta Mendel-Reyes

Awards for Community Service, Service-Learning and Community Engagement

During this past academic year, Berea College received two national awards for service and civic engagement: the 2008 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll (with Distinction) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's 2008 Community Engagement Classification. On behalf of the College, CELTS led the application process for these honors, and our students' work in community service and community engagement was key in receiving the awards.

The Honor Roll, given by the President of the United States, is the "highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement." From tutoring and mentoring local children, to helping to build homes for low-income families, to bridging language barriers between the

Spanish-speaking and English-speaking communities, to educating peers and community members about issues ranging from hunger and homelessness to environmental sustainability—Berea College students are committed to giving back to the community through service and service-learning.

The Carnegie Community Engagement Classification is given to a select number of colleges and universities that are closely engaged with their communities. Berea College interacts with our local community in many ways, but CELTS's commitment to partnership has deepened the impact that students have through service. The Carnegie Classification is recognition of the role that CELTS and many other programs at Berea College play in helping students become "service-oriented leaders for Appalachia and beyond."

—*Dr. Meta Mendel-Reyes*

2009 Student Service Award Recipients

The **E.R. Brann Good Citizenship Award** recognizes the student whose character and life have made an outstanding contribution to the Christian character of Berea College. This year's recipient is Aaron Sachs.

The **Ernest and Emily G. Graham Volunteer Service Award** recognizes two Berea College students, who have demonstrated exceptional volunteer service during the academic year. The award is in honor of Ernest Graham, alumni and long time volunteer, and Emily C. Graham, who was dedicated to service through her nursing career and volunteer activities. This year's recipients are Aaron Meadows and Anna Rafferty.

The **Jane A. Kendrick Community Service Award** recognizes volunteer service to the community. The award is given to the student who, through volunteer service, has accented the value of volunteer work and, in so doing, has improved and enriched the lives of others. This year's recipients are Michael King and Amanda Torres.

The **Layman Memorial Scholarship** was established by the daughters of the Rev. and Mrs. Henry L. Layman, missionaries in Japan for 35 years. It is awarded each year to the student who seems most likely to make a contribution to international relations. This year's recipients are Lindsey Walker and Zubair Ahmad.

The **Louise Veltin Memorial Award** for good citizenship was founded in 1936 by the Veltin Association of New York City in memory of Louise Veltin. Awarded each year to an upper classman chosen for all-around good citizenship. This year's recipient is Debra Bulluck.

The **Homer A. Porter, Jr. Citizen-Servant Emerging Leader Awards** are given to students whose participation in and contributions to service programs or service-learning courses exemplify the selflessness characteristic of servant leaders. This year's recipients are Christina Mauro, Marah Holz and Ehis Akhetuamhen.

The **Dr. Lee E. Wickline Scholarship** is given in honor of Dr. Lee E. Wickline, class of '49. The recipient must be a full-time enrolled junior or senior majoring in education and give evidence of being well-rounded and having demonstrated an enthusiastic interest in school and community activities and an awareness of universal human values. This year's recipient is Ashlyn Martin.

The **Student Service-Learning Award** goes to a student or students who have made significant contributions to our Berea and Madison County community through the service-learning program. This year's recipient is Beth Bissmeyer.

The **Red Foley Memorial Music Award** recognizes a student for his/her musical contribution to the social life of the campus community. The award was established in honor of country music star Red Foley who attended the Berea Academy. This year's recipients are Will Haizlett and Jesse Wilhite.

The **George and Lucille C. McKinney Service Award** is given to a student who will be a senior the following year and who is an active participant in volunteer service in the college community. This year's recipient is Miluka Gunaratna.

The **Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King Award** recognizes campus leadership in interracial understanding. It is given to two students, one African-American and one white or non-white, who demonstrates leadership qualities in the promotion of interracial understanding in all aspects of campus and student life. This year's recipients are Matthew Baunack and Bemene Baadom-Piaro.

The **Eva Nell Whitaker Alley Award** goes to a graduating female who has exhibited leadership in campus activities. She must be a vital part of Berea College and make a contribution to student and campus life. This year's recipient is Enchantta Jackson.

Dr. Steve Fisher Receives Berea College Service Award

At the 2009 Service Awards Banquet, Dr. Steven Fisher was presented with the 2009 Berea College Service Award. Dr. Fisher, retired Hawthorne Professor of Political Science at Emory and Henry College, is nationally-recognized for his leadership in placing service to Appalachia at the heart of higher education in the region. Dr. Fisher received the 1999 National Professor of the Year Award from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (Outstanding Baccalaureate College Professor). He was cited for establishing the Appalachian Center for Community Service at Emory and Henry, and for creating a service-learning major, Public Policy and Community Service. A political scientist, Fisher's scholarship focuses on social justice and activism in the region. He is the author of many articles and books, including the acclaimed *Fighting Back in Appalachia: Traditions of Resistance and Change* (1993). Fisher served as the 1998-1999 President of the Appalachian Studies Association, which brings together regional activists as well as scholars and teachers. Fisher is also a co-founder of "Just Connections," an association of activists and scholars whose mission is to "invigorate grassroots democracy among residents of distressed mountain communities by creating and using models for participatory research and service in support of self-sustaining communities that



Dr. Fisher and Berea College student service award winners pose on the porch of Boone Tavern after the Service Awards Banquet .

offer equitable access to resources for local citizens." He currently serves on the Board of the Highlander Research and Education Center, and is co-editing a new book, titled, "Transforming Places: Lessons in Movement-Building from Appalachia."

In addition to these accomplishments, Steve Fisher is a mentor and friend to many scholars, activists, and residents of the Appalachian region. His wisdom, humility, humor, social and political analysis, friendship, and commitment to living out his ideals are an inspiration to many.

In accepting the award, Steve commented, "I'm always surprised, pleased and honored to receive any award, but this one is especially important to me since it comes from Berea College... Berea represents so well so many of the values I hold dear: (1) the importance of a small liberal arts college education; (2) a commitment to first generation college students, of whom I was one; (3) a focus on service to the community, region, nation, and world; (4) a recognition of and commitment to the importance of diversity that is manifested in the make-up of your student body and faculty and in the design of your curriculum; and (5) of course Berea's overarching commitment to the Appalachian region."

—Ashley Cochran

The Berea Student Perspective at the Gulf South Summit

Editor's Note: *From March 25 - 27, a Berea College team composed of students, faculty, CELTS staff and a community partner attended the Gulf South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement in Higher Education in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Attending this regional conference is an important aspect of the Berea College service-learning program, as an annual opportunity to connect with service-learning colleagues, to learn about new ideas and best practices in the service-learning field, and to share some of the strong service-learning work that is taking place at Berea. This year, the Student Service-Learning Team presented a workshop titled, "The Berea Student Perspective: Building Student Leadership in Service-Learning." Read on for reflections from Debra Bulluck, '09 and Ehis Akhetuamhen, '11 about their experience.*

This year the annual Gulf-South Summit encountered a new perspective, the Berea Student Perspective. Although I had the opportunity to attend and participate in the Gulf South Summit in 2007, the experience of presenting at a professional conference on something I am passionate about was wonderful. Our crowd of about twenty people, representing various junior colleges, universities and colleges, were very encouraging and open-minded to what we as students had to say; that was a very pleasant surprise for me. Our



Ehis Akhetuamhen and Debra Bulluck on the bank of the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

presentation was very representational of what goes on at CELTS, not just because we experience student leadership roles, but because Ehis and I used the tools that we had, as well as the support that we received from Ashley and Meta, to take the lead on this assignment.

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Community Partner Spotlight: Jerry Workman

In this edition of the CELTS newsletter, we would like to introduce you to Jerry Workman. Jerry is one of our most dedicated community partners and recently won the Berea College Volunteer Award for his dedication to Berea College students through his work with the Labor Program.

Jerry's work in community service began long before his current role at the Berea Community Food Bank. For thirty-two years, Jerry worked in various roles with Save the Children. Upon his "retirement" he began volunteering at the Berea Community Food Bank. After working there for a few years, Jerry became the volunteer Food Bank Director. This position's responsibilities include: program development; recruiting, training and supervising volunteers; developing systems needed to document services; coordinating with other agencies serving the same families; and obtaining in-kind and financial resources to support the Food Bank, among many other things.

Jerry's role working with Berea College students is extremely important to the work of the student-led programs in CELTS. Jerry serves as a site supervisor for at least one of our labor students each year and during the summer. Jerry is also an integral part of the planning process for the annual Hunger Hurts Food Drive. Jerry is often a guest speaker for student trainings at CELTS and often (around once a month or more) comes to the office, just to talk to our students and professional staff. He serves as a mentor to several of our students and is always willing to help them.

In addition to Jerry's involvement with the CELTS Student-Led Service Programs, Jerry also actively supports and participates in the Berea College Service-Learning Program. He serves as a member of the Service-Learning Advisory Committee. Jerry also regularly collaborates, on behalf of the Berea Community Food Bank, with faculty and students through service-learning courses. In the past couple of years, Jerry and the Berea Community Food Bank have

partnered with courses in Child and Family Studies, Communication Studies, Computer Science, and Religion.

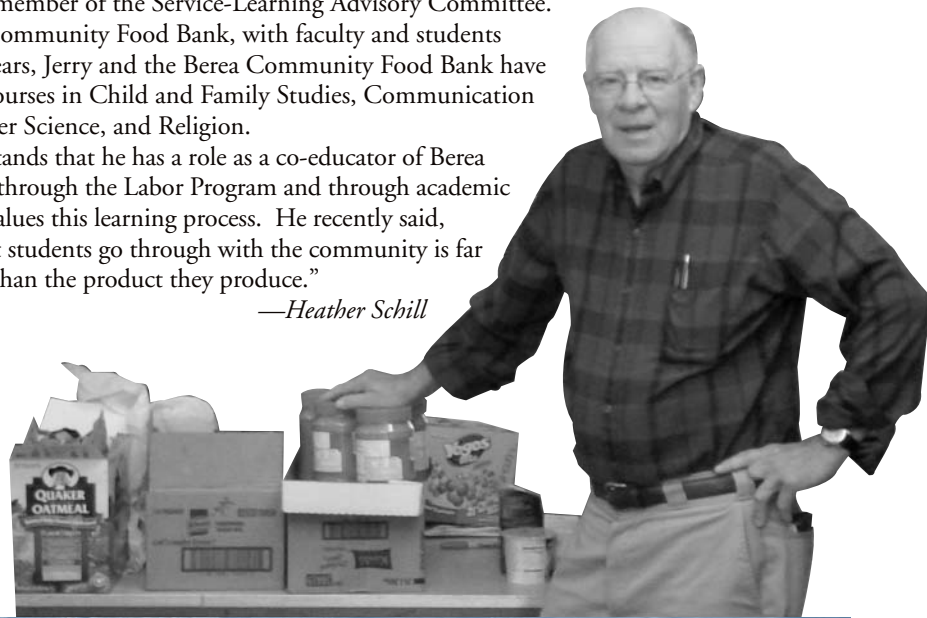
Jerry understands that he has a role as a co-educator of Berea College students through the Labor Program and through academic courses, and he values this learning process. He recently said, "The process that students go through with the community is far more important than the product they produce."

—Heather Schill



LEFT: Jerry shows off his Berea College Volunteer Service Award at the recent Labor Banquet.

RIGHT: at the Food Bank.



Gulf South Summit CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

I believe that we were able to enlighten others about the unique opportunities that we have at Berea, and about how they can look at their own unique assets to develop strong leadership roles at their institutions. It was an honor to represent my school in this capacity and at that moment I felt proud to be a Mountaineer.

—Debra Bulluck, '09

In my career at Berea College I have been fortunate to attend a number of off-campus leadership and professional conferences.

Leading a presentation at a professional conference is a different experience from merely attending one. The best part of my experience at the Gulf South Summit, however, is realizing that I was not just a participant but an active stakeholder in the field of service-learning.

I went to the conference with my mind focused on the presentation for our workshop. I was at once excited and nervous. After months of preparations, here was the time to deliver. I was, however, confident about sharing the Berea story and my Berea experience with service-learning. It turned out that my preparation paid off as I was not only able to give my part of the presentation

without any glitches but was also able to impart some useful ideas to faculty, staff and students from various institutions on how to develop student leadership in their programs. What was more exciting was the fact that the keynote speaker at the conference was present at our workshop and personally commended us for a wonderful job.

The conference has made me more confident in my work with the service-learning program at CELTS. Although this is my first year with the program I now feel like I can educate my peers about service-learning, but also make valuable contributions in discussions with experienced practitioners.

—Ehis Akhetuamben, '11

"Greener" Eggs and Ham

"At the far end of town where the Grickle-grass grows and the wind smells slow-and-sour when it blows and no birds ever sing excepting old crows...is the Street of the Lifted Lorax," Berea College President Larry Shinn read.

Dr. Shinn's guest reading was a feature part of this year's annual GreenER Eggs and Ham dinner. Each year, First Book of Madison County puts on the Green Eggs and Ham dinner. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness for First Book's mission: To provide disadvantaged children with new books.

The 2009 GreenER Eggs and Ham dinner proved to be different from previous years' events. Taking the center stage this year was the environment. That is, that everything featured at the dinner this year was earth friendly. From dinnerware made from potatoes to local eggs, hams and cornbread, every effort was made to be as green and sustainable as possible.

Lindsey Walker, program manager for First Book of Madison County said that the reason for the event being "green" is due, in part, to Maya Benami. Maya, who graduated from Berea in 2008, was a volunteer for CELTS' environmental justice initiative, HEAL (Heal the Earth And Learn). "Last year, Maya had suggested that we try and get local foods this year, so we did," said Walker. "We also thought that with the campus making such a huge push to be environmentally sustainable, this would be a good way to participate in that and make the concept accessible to the community."

In addition to local foods being featured this year, tomato plants from the Berea College greenhouses were given out to local children, students from the Berea College Chemistry Department provided free bottles of "green" cleaner, and all the waste from the event was composted rather than thrown away.

Berea College President Larry Shinn was also present at the event, fresh from an early morning trip home from Chicago, Illinois. While Dr. Shinn read Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*, children from the Berea community gathered at his feet. Some students and older community members who are "young at heart" also sat as he read. The younger members of the audience were captivated as Dr. Shinn recounted the tale of the Lorax and how his habitat was destroyed.

The event went off without a hitch as community members, students, faculty, and staff took part in making the 2009 GreenER Eggs and Ham Dinner a successful, fun, and "green" event for all involved. A special thank-you goes out to Berea College Food Services for providing "green" dinnerware and local eggs, to Berea College greenhouses for the tomato plants, to Berea College Chemistry Department for providing green cleaner, and to Penn's Country Ham in Campbellsville, Ky.

—Aaron Sachs, '09



President Shinn reads Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* during the GreenER Eggs and Ham program.



Arlett Franco, '09, poses with a friend over dinner at the 2009 GreenER Eggs and Ham.

Spring Service Trips

A Trip to the Delta



There are many great ways to spend your spring break, and students at Berea College came up with quite a few of them. There is nothing more fulfilling than giving back to a community that is in need. Students Christian Motley and Chris Perkins, with the help of Black Cultural Center Director Tashia Bradley, worked to plan an Alternative Spring Break to the small rural town of Sunflower, Mississippi to help teach at an after school academic enrichment organization called the Sunflower County Freedom Project (Freedom Project). Sunflower County is 63% African American and has one of the lowest ranking educational systems in Mississippi. Perkins a 3rd year African and African American Studies major at Berea College grew up in Sunflower and is a 2006 graduate of the program. He wishes to continue to work with the Freedom Project because he believes “the Freedom Project has done so much for me as a student and a person. I firmly believe I would not be a student at Berea had it not been for my involvement in the Sunflower County Freedom Project.” Perkins went on to say that he felt it was his responsibility to work to ensure that the program continues to do the great work it does in the Mississippi Delta, “That’s why I organized this trip.”

Seeking to build a corps of academically capable, socially conscious, and mentally disciplined young leaders in the Mississippi Delta, the Freedom Project was founded in 1998 by Teach For America veteran Chris Myers-Asch and is modeled after the 1964 Freedom Schools of that

area. Students in the program commit to the concepts of service, leadership, individuality and hard work, as well as six years of study sessions, Saturday schools, and six weeks of summer academics. The ultimate goal of the Freedom Project is to help its students get into a four year institution of their choice upon completion of high school. Once students enroll in the program they are expected to attend one of four nightly study sessions a week

where they do homework, work on projects, or work on assignments given by Freedom Project staff. These assignments usually are due at the Freedom Project’s weekly Saturday Schools where students work exclusively for the Freedom Project. These assignments consist of ACT/SAT prep, current events, writing and reading classes. In the 10 years the organization has been active in the Delta it has sent students to Howard University, University of North Carolina Chapel-Hill, Rust College, Mississippi State, Berea College, and a host of other universities.

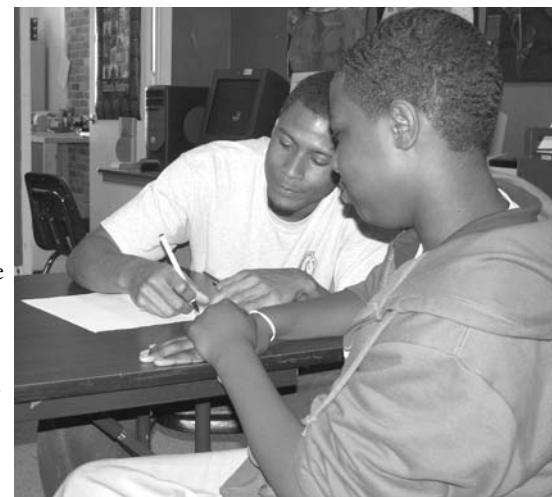
This past Spring Break eight Berea College students and faculty members traveled to the catfish ponds of the Mississippi Delta to donate their time and experiences with the staff and students of the Freedom Project. When asked what the Center needed most, the Freedom Project responded that it needed a computer lab. The organization had been serving 50 students with access to less than 20 working computers. So the Berea College students set out to make their wish a reality. The group worked all semester to raise money and gather the materials needed to make their visit a success, and when it was time to depart they had gathered 6 complete desktops to take with them, a gift they accepted thankfully.

The Berea Group consisted of students Christian Motley, Anna Rafferty, Chris Perkins, Charles Badger, Gerald Fitts, Jedidiah Amica

and Black Cultural Center Director, Tashia Bradley. The group didn’t stop with computers; they also participated in study sessions and showed the kids the kind of students that Berea College has to offer. Perkins recalls “My favorite part of the trip was not the mural we painted or the computers Anna got, it was when we were talking to the students about Berea and one of my students said ‘Berea’ and gave me a thumbs up. I knew we were doing good work then.” The Berea students left the Freedom Project with a clean storage room, a new mural on their ceiling, half a dozen computers and a new appreciation for Berea College. Christian Motley, a senior African and African American Studies major, said one of his favorite moments was when one of the Freedom Project students stopped him and explained how much she admired the amount of pride all the Berea students had in their school. After all the hard work was done we got to experience some of the famous Delta Culture. We visited the B.B. King museum, a catfish farm, and learned about the Civil Rights History of the Mississippi Delta. It was a wholesome, heartwarming experience.

For more information on the Sunflower County Freedom Project visit their web site at www.sunflowerfreedom.org or contact Greg McCoy 662-569-2441/ 662-736-0213.

—*Christopher Perkins, '10*



Christian Motley tutors a young man at the Sunflower County Freedom Project.

and Conferences

Powershift 2009

The youth of America are standing up and speaking out more than ever in 2009. With the help of determination, passion, and the information age, they are on the front lines of a nation-wide green movement. More than 11,000 of these young environmentalists converged in Washington, D.C. for Powershift 2009, a climate change conference held from February 27th to March 2nd, to demand immediate and urgent action on the most pressing sustainability issues of our time. This huge turnout of student leaders included 11 students from Berea College led by the CELTS' service program, HEAL.

These Berea students had the opportunity to meet and discuss the environmental challenges and possible solutions that our nation and the world face today with thousands of other youth representing all 50 states and 13 countries. This included students from other Kentucky schools that are also members of KSEC, the Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition. One student described the energy of such a large amassment of environmentally proactive student leaders as "palpable, electrifying and inspirational."

The weekend summit's events included workshops on environmental issues and leadership, keynote speakers, a youth rally, and the climax of putting words into action—lobby day. Dozens of workshops hosted in the capital's convention center addressed an array of issues such as alternative and viable energy sources in wind and solar, leadership skills in grassroots organizing, lobbying training, health care in a green society, urban gardening, creative activism, and water conservation techniques, to name a few. These specific sessions were accompanied by several keynote addresses to one room filled with 11,000 people. The speakers included the newly appointed administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa Jackson, Congressman Ed Markey, green-collar job activist Majora Carter, and Van Jones, author and president of Green for All.

With the election of a President that is committed to addressing climate issues, much due to a high youth voter turnout, the sentiment among environmental groups was that in the new administration's first 100 days it was critical to make a statement to reinforce the message of immediate federal action on climate. In response, thousands of youth gathered in front of the capital building on Sunday to listen to environmental leaders give words of motivation and to raise their own voices against the snow-

covered cold and for federal sponsorship of clean energy and green jobs. After marching all the way to the White House to stand in solidarity for the environment the day before, this group was ready to go to congress.

On the final day, at the pinnacle of the conference, thousands of students attended lobby meetings in the offices of representatives and senators of all 50 states in the largest congressional citizen appearance for environmental issues in history. The changes they asked for were the reduction of carbon emissions dramatically and immediately, the creation of 5 million new jobs through investing in clean energy, to power our future by clean, renewable energy like wind, solar and geothermal, and not dirty fuels, and to make the U.S. a leader in the global path to a clean and equitable energy future. Many of the students said that they plan to follow up in meetings and letters to congress until federal action is achieved.

HEAL, as a student-led service program in CELTS, felt that it was important for Berea students to have the opportunity to participate in an environmental advocacy event in which almost every college and university across the nation was represented. HEAL collaborates with various groups on campus in sustainability projects and currently leads several campaigns, including mountain top removal awareness, water conservation, and faucet aerator installation. HEAL also collaborates with the Kentucky



Students from Berea College attend the Youth Rally at Powershift 2009 in Washington, D.C.

Student Environmental Coalition (KSEC). Formed just last year, KSEC is a coalition that allows several organizations and students from campuses and schools across Kentucky to connect and collaborate on sustainability and environmental projects, campaigns, issues, and events.

As many of this year's attendees have expressed, they have been equally inspired and empowered by their experience and plan to share the skills and knowledge that they have gained with others. One student who attended the summit, Tenzin Drukdak, said he now had restored confidence in the possibilities of positive change, "This was truly a life changing experience for me and it was very inspiring to meet 12,000 young people who share the same passion." In 2010, when the next Powershift conference is held, let's hope that even more young and passionate students from Berea and around the nation make the commitment to clean energy and a greener future.

—Sierra Baker, '09 and Christine Morris, '10



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Volunteering in Charleston, South Carolina

The Berea College Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity took a group of 11 staff and volunteers on a road trip down to Charleston, South Carolina to participate in the annual Spring Collegiate Challenge week. The trip serves to build partnerships with people sharing a common goal, to gain greater awareness of the need for decent, affordable housing, and to deepen commitment to social action.

The group was unfortunately not able to work on a Habitat house while in Charleston because of some unforeseen problems between the affiliate and a land donor. Despite this dilemma, the construction crew found plenty of rehab work to do around the ReStore and office complex. Volunteers spent the week painting, installing doors, shelves, and cabinets, and putting in new linoleum flooring.

We came away with many new skills, great experiences from our evening rendezvous to historic downtown Charleston, and a close rapport with the Charleston affiliate.

If you would like more information about Habitat or if you are interested in volunteering, email habitat@berea.edu or contact Program Manager, Amanda Pardieu at 859-985-3136.



LEFT: Students painting the outside of the Charleston Habitat Office.



BELOW: Michael King, '09, glues flooring at the Charleston Habitat for Humanity Office.