



Matthew Bailey of Isom, Kentucky, works at the College's computer center. He and other students maintain and repair laptops.

**W**hen Berea decided to place a portable computer in the hands of every student, the Labor Program saw a chance to train Matthew Bailey and others to maintain and repair the laptops, providing them with valuable skills and the College with an essential service.

"It is great to have knowledge that someone else can benefit from," said Matthew. A second-year student from Isom, a small town in eastern Kentucky, Matthew serves as a computer technician for Information Systems & Services. "I consider myself a student of IS&S rather than seeing IS&S as my job," he said. "I have learned valuable information that will allow me to maintain some level of competency with the technical world as it changes, whether I choose to continue pursuing work as a computer technician or not."

Members of Matthew's family have worked in coal mines for generations. Though Matthew is proud of that heritage, he is grateful for the opportunity to receive the college education that will give him the skills necessary in an increasingly technology-based economy.

**S**enior Paloma Martinez is a woman of the world. Originally from Lima, Peru, the business and Spanish double major has set her sights on a career in marketing to the Hispanic population.

A Berea marketing professor suggested the specialty to Paloma, who tried it during a summer 2005 internship at a local credit union. During the internship Paloma provided translation services and marketing for an expanding customer base—Mexican immigrants. Paloma said many of the immigrants she met were struggling to understand loan applications and other forms because they lacked English language skills, so she stepped in to explain in Spanish. "That was a way to help them," she said.

In the summer of 2006, Paloma further expanded her world view by taking two courses in Spain as part of her Spanish major. She plans to stay in the United States to attend graduate school.



Paloma Martinez supplemented her business and Spanish majors with an internship in summer 2005.

**J**uggling school and family is not easy, but sophomore Dreama Brannock finds the support she needs at the Ecovillage. Dreama grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, and had difficulty financing a college education on her own. "Being a single parent, I don't have that much money," Dreama said, "so Berea College has helped me tremendously."

As a resident of the Ecovillage, Dreama receives not only financial support, but also the support of other student parents who help her handle the multiple responsibilities of caring for toddler Christian, studying nursing, and working 10 hours a week in her labor position. "There is an awesome feeling of community here," Dreama said.

While Dreama attends classes, Christian goes to the Child Development Lab, a part of the Ecovillage.



Dreama Brannock and her son, Christian, live in Berea's Ecological Village.



Lederrick Wesley is a music major who stays busy with several campus ensembles.

**L**ederrick Wesley begins his days at Berea College at 8 a.m. and ends them around 10 p.m. "That's the life of a music major," he said.

Between classes and studying, Lederrick participates in the Black Music Ensemble, concert choir, concert band, and the student chapters of the American Choral Directors Association and Music Educators National Conference. He is also active in Black Student Union and Baptist Campus Ministry.

Lederrick grew up in a large family in Mississippi and Alabama and learned about Berea through a college fair at his high school.

"I was astonished that a school gives every student a full-tuition scholarship and a laptop. I thought it was too good to be true," he said.

For his labor position, he is an ambassador with the Office of Admissions, introducing prospective students to Berea and sharing his own story, sometimes at college fairs.