

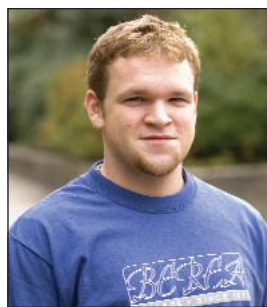
# SERVING APPALACHIA

Berea College

**BEREA COLLEGE AND APPALACHIA CANNOT BE SEPARATED.** The College has been shaped by its relationship to the mountains through its students and the culture they bring to campus. In turn, the College has helped shape Appalachia by offering education to students of limited economic means and providing outreach to mountain communities. For 150 years, Berea College has served Appalachian students with both a comprehensive education and an affirmation of their heritage.

One of Berea's Great Commitments is "to serve the Appalachian region primarily through education but also by other appropriate services." In the fall of 2005, 73% of Berea students came from the College's admissions territory, which includes all of Kentucky and the Appalachian areas of eight other states: Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia. Most of our alumni continue to live and work in this region after they graduate, and many choose service fields such as education, nursing, and nonprofit work.

Berea's Appalachian Center, home to the Appalachian Studies Department, is also an umbrella for programs that serve the campus community and the broader region, such as the annual Celebration of Traditional Music, *Appalachian Heritage* magazine, and the Appalachian Artifacts and Exhibits Studio. Regional traditions are kept alive as the Berea Country Dancers perform and teach traditional mountain dances; the Bluegrass Music Ensemble entertains crowds with their pure music; and those who work in Student Crafts preserve the mountain folk arts of weaving, broom-making, woodcrafts, and ironworks.



**D**avid Coffman came to Berea from Pike County, Kentucky. He entered Berea in 2002 as a member of the Bonner Scholars program, which selects 15 freshmen each year to spend all four years **actively engaged in service**.

This year, David is a senior intern, making sure daily Bonner Scholars activities on campus run smoothly. He is also chair of the local branch of First Book, a national organization that provides children from low-income families their first books to own. David says his most **fulfilling** service at Berea has been involvement in Micah 6, which provides transportation for local people who cannot drive.

After graduating in May 2006, David hopes to spend a year volunteering, then **live and work in Appalachia**, helping people influence their futures and discover new opportunities. "I appreciate the Appalachian people: their resiliency to exploitation; the strong, close-knit communities; and the culture of Appalachia."

"There are a lot of things I'd like to see changed," David says. "My service has given me the foundation to go out and do something exciting. At Berea, I've gotten the skills I need to **change the world**. It has made me into what I am."



## More Ways Berea Serves Appalachia

**The Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service** houses student-led service programs such as Students for Appalachia and Habitat for Humanity and provides support, resources, and meeting space for students, staff, and community partners.

**Entrepreneurship for the Public Good** teaches 40 students per summer—in classes, field trips, and internships—how businesses and nonprofits employ socially and environmentally responsible practices to build healthy communities in Appalachia.

**Hutchins Library Special Collections** is a significant resource for Appalachian study, with such collections as the Appalachian Sound Archives, Weatherford-Hammond Mountain Collection, and Southern Appalachian Archives.

**The Sustainability and Environmental Studies** program teaches students how to make a smaller ecological footprint on the environment in Appalachia and beyond.

**Brushy Fork Institute** fosters leadership skills in Appalachia with training, organizational development, and technical help.

**The Berea College Appalachian Fund** supports groups improving health, education, and general welfare in Appalachia.

## ◀ Traditional Appalachian Music and Dance: Preservation, Celebration, and Access

*With help from an anonymous donor, Berea College has expanded programs that celebrate and preserve traditional Appalachian music and dance. Faculty are offering more private music lessons and have purchased traditional instruments such as guitars, banjos, mandolins, and a bass for student use. The grant also provides for a dance music ensemble to perform and travel with the Berea Country Dancers.*

*The grant supports efforts to digitize non-commercial recordings that date back as far as the 1960s and increases the number of traditional music and dance performances, internships, and apprenticeships.*

*A new Appalachian Music Archives Fellowship program allows graduate students, faculty, school teachers, and performers to conduct one to nine months of research in the College's Sound Archives.*