



GOD HAS MADE OF ONE BLOOD ALL PEOPLES OF THE EARTH

**BEREA COLLEGE**

**APPALACHIAN CENTER**  
*Tradition. Diversity. Change.*

**Four join the AC staff**

**Chad Berry**  
*Director, Appalachian Center*

Ironweed and Joe-Pye weed are sure clues that summer is waning, so such botanical happenings give cause to bring you up to date with work here in the Center. Autumn marks the beginnings of four new faculty and staff members of the Appalachian Center.

**Deborah Thompson** is now Director of Programming in the Center. Known to many throughout the Appalachian Region, Deborah brings us cultural and musical knowledge in particular. Her duties will center on the Celebration of Traditional Music and other programming throughout the year. She is completing her dissertation at the University of Kentucky in geography; prior to that she directed the Appalachian Semester at Union College.

Two new faculty come to the Entrepreneurship for the Public Good Program. **Dr. Peter H. Hackbert** occupies the William and Kay Moore

Chair in Entrepreneurship and Management and comes to Berea from the Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the University of Illinois at Champaign. Prior to that, he held an endowed chair in entrepreneurship at Sierra Nevada College. Peter enjoys the rewards and challenges of teaching entrepreneurship in a liberal arts college setting. He holds a B.A. degree from the University of Cincinnati and a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma.

**Dr. Dan Huck** will hold the William R. Gruver Chair in Leadership Studies. He received his B.A. from Bucknell University, his J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law, and his doctorate from West Virginia University. Most recently, he was Assistant Professor of Leadership at the McDonough Center for Leadership and Business at Marietta College in Ohio. Prior to his work in academia, Dan enjoyed success as a lawyer, working as both a federal and state court mediator, as the chair of the West



**Thompson**



**Hackbert**



**Huck**

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APPALACHIAN CENTER STAFF

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## Notes

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Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority, as a law firm founder and managing partner, as legal counsel to the Governor of West Virginia, and as a deputy attorney general for West Virginia.

**Dr. William H. Turner**, known to many as one of the leading scholars of African Americans in Appalachia, joins the College as the holder of the NEH Chair of Appalachian Studies. Established through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the rotating appointment is normally for one year and may be renewed for up to three years. Bill was most recently Vice President for University Engagement and Associate Provost for Multicultural and



Turner

Academic Affairs at the University of Kentucky. Prior to that, he served as interim president of Kentucky State University, where he had also held an earlier position as Dean and Associate professor of sociology. A native of Lynch, Kentucky, Turner received a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky and his advanced degrees from the University of Notre Dame.

Having just returned from an intense and meaningful weeklong Appalachian Seminar and Tour for new faculty and staff, we are welcoming students and the beginning of a new academic year. This year, our programming efforts will focus on "Diversity in Appalachia," and we're embarking on a series of renovations to our space—the Appalachian Gallery, Faber Library, and offices—to enhance our work on and off campus. Once the dust settles—and before the snow flies—we hope you will stop in to say hello. Until then, you can keep in touch through the Center's continually evolving website: [www.berea.edu/ac](http://www.berea.edu/ac).

## Pluck! debuts to readers nationwide

The dictionary definition of pluck includes: *to summon up one's courage; to rouse one's spirits, and courage or resolution in the face of difficulties*. This resilient courage is at the heart of a value system that permeates this region and is enough of an excuse to invite you to support our new journal, *PLUCK! The Journal of Affrilachian Arts & Culture*.

We know there are libraries full of great journals and literary magazines already in print, but our mission is to further illustrate the Affrilachian aesthetic, "*making the invisible visible*," by inviting you into the conversation. Though our subscriber base already extends from New York to California, our goal is to celebrate outstanding contemporary literature and feature images, essays, and articles that celebrate the rich artistic and diverse cultural heritage of the Appalachian region, including the urban centers and small towns that are home to many of its migrants, as well as regional cities such as Knoxville, Charleston, Nashville, Chattanooga, Asheville, Winston-Salem, Spartanburg, Lexington, and Roanoke, and major manufacturing and transportation centers such as Birmingham, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh. Our distribution area includes university campuses and every place in the region where artistic excellence, diversity, and community are appreciated.

Please visit us at [www.pluckonline.com](http://www.pluckonline.com) or send \$30.00 for a one-year subscription (\$100.00 for institutions) to PLUCK! at PO Box 14057, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0057.

—Frank X Walker



# In the mines...

## A question of compliance?

by **Thomas Parrish**

*Contributing Editor*

In the wake of the January 2006 explosions at the Sago and Aracoma mines in West Virginia and other mine accidents in Kentucky, we noted in the *Appalachian Center Newsletter* (Winter 2006) that these tragedies had produced much heat, some light, and a measure of action—a very limited measure. And, we said governmental and industry zeal for change was fading day by day.

Then, on May 20 last year, came a blast at the Darby mine in Harlan County, Ky., in which five miners died, bringing the total mining deaths for the first five months of 2006 to the grim figure of 33, far above the average. These events took the wind out of Bush administration boasts about improved mine safety in 2005. Indeed, an official of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) observed that, had some of the hastily adopted new requirements been in place in January, as had been proposed in the latter part of the Clinton administration, most of the miners killed in January would have survived. Unfortunately, however, administration officials had rejected the recommendation (along with 17 other proposed safety rules). An editorial summed it up: they were “just lucky then and reckless now.”

But we've recently learned a nice bureaucratic expression that puts much of this discussion in context: *compliance assistance*. That, it seems, is what administration officials wanted mine inspectors to offer industry. Did this doctrine imply, for instance, that mine inspectors should

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Photo by Kit Cottrell, '08

# In the mines

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overlook problems with the installation of seals (whose failure allowed methane to seep into a working area of the Darby mine, where it was ignited by an acetylene torch)? And at Aracoma, violations that fueled the fatal blaze “were obvious and should have been identified [previously] by MSHA inspectors,” says a new report. Is this more government-industry hand-holding?

**Inspectors routinely missed violations and did not properly judge the violations they did spot.**

## A New Look?

The new report, however, is of genuine interest. After disasters of any kind, and certainly in the world of coal mining, admissions of error by those in charge and acceptance of the need for change tend to come slowly, often bit by bit. Now, in the new report, MSHA has taken an overall look at itself after its great 2006 failures. Speaking of the Darby mine, for instance, the report notes that while the operator failed to create safe conditions, agency inspectors routinely missed violations and did not properly judge the violations they did spot. And some inspectors were inclined to go easy on the operator because they felt that, in any case, higher-ups in the agency would reduce the charge, like a friendly judge amending a DUI citation.

As a result of the findings, some of the inspectors will likely be fired, but, of course, it wasn't the inspectors who created the culture of compliance assistance. Notions like that come out of the executive suites, like the one occupied by Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, and ones higher up still.

Despite its findings about the inadequacy of the seals in the Darby mine, MSHA declared that these failings neither caused nor contributed to the explosion. That's illogical, said Tony Oppgaard, a former mine-safety official and attorney for widows of Darby miners: “The operator knew there was lax enforcement.” In keeping the issue alive with Congress and the state legislature, the widows nevertheless had played an important part in the revision of safety laws and the imposition of penalties on the operator, the Copperhead Mining Company.

The new assistant secretary for mine safety and health expressed considerable concern on learning that enforcement of the rules has been, as Oppgaard said, lax. This new official may be naïve, but he may be serious, too. At least, his name is encouraging: we certainly wish the best to Richard Stickler. ❧

## LOOKING FORWARD

Please check [www.berea.edu/lac](http://www.berea.edu/lac) for more updates.

**October 5-7:** 23rd annual Sorghum Makin', John R. Simon's Family Farm, 8721 Pond Creek/Carey's Run Road, Portsmouth, Ohio 45663. There will be “lots of good music,” Simon says, and lots of apple butter and, to be sure, sorghum; also soap making, butter churning, and corn pickling, plus dancing and hayrides. For more information, call (740) 754-3401.

**October 6-7:** Fall Festival, John C. Campbell Folk School. If you attend, you can join some 200 craftspersons in celebrating “our rich Appalachian heritage.” You'll find crafts demonstrations and crafts for sale. The crafts will be backed by continuous live music and dance on two stages; the Rural Felicity Garland Dancers will perform on both days. Contact the school at One Folk School Road, Brasstown, N.C. 28902; phone, 800-FOLKSCH; [www.folkschool.org](http://www.folkschool.org).

**October 11-14:** 28th annual Tennessee Fall Homecoming, sponsored by and held at John Rice Irwin's Museum of Appalachia, renowned as “the most authentic and complete replica of pioneer Appalachian life in the world.” Continuing to hold its place among the top 100 events in North America, as selected by the American Bus Association, the homecoming will feature the long-established bountiful serving of art, crafts, and entertainment, offered by an array of notables including Mac Wiseman, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, the Lewis Family, Mike Snider, and many others. Sidebar events include such goings-on as antique-tractor parades; crafts galore, too, of course. The museum's address is P.O. Box 1189, Norris, Tenn. 37828; phone (865) 494-7680; [museumappalachia@bellsouth.net](mailto:museumappalachia@bellsouth.net).

**October 12-21:** Georgia Mountain Fair Fall Festival, Hiawassee Ga.—ten great days of endless music galore; you can also enjoy boating, camping (RV, tent) and classy pastimes like tennis, and

# 33rd Celebration of Traditional Music moved one week earlier than usual

Take note that the Celebration of Traditional Music will be held a week earlier than its usual weekend with several other changes as well! This year's festival will be October 18-21, 2007, beginning on Thursday evening with a convocation concert by the Carolina Chocolate Drops. A noon concert will feature their mentor, Joe Thompson, with Bob Carlin and Steve Terrill. The symposium will be moved to Friday afternoon: Michael and Carrie Kline will be speaking and playing excerpts from their latest collecting project: *Where the Coal Trains Load: World Music from Eastern Pennsylvania*. The Friday evening jam sessions with festival musicians will be held in the Appalachian Center and will feature many choices, including a dulcimer-friendly jam and singing sessions. Saturday will be filled with daytime workshops and concerts, an afternoon dance, and the big concert at Phelps Stokes on Saturday night. Sunday morning's hymn singing will be held at Union Church. This year's artists include Joe Thompson, Bob Carlin, and Steve Terrill; Betty Smith; Roger Cooper; Rabbit Hash String Band; Michael and Carrie Kline; and two gospel groups, the McGuire Sisters and the Cherokee Women's Gospel Singers. Supported by the Kentucky Arts Council. ❖

## Thursday, October 18

8 PM Free convocation concert: Carolina Chocolate Drops (Thursday only!) with Joe Thompson

## Friday, October 19

Noon Concert: Joe Thompson, Bob Carlin, and Steve Terrill  
3 PM Symposium: "Where the Coal Trains Load: World Music of Eastern Pennsylvania" by Michael and Carrie Nobel Kline  
7 PM Jam sessions

## Saturday, October 20

10 AM Concerts, workshops, open mic sessions (ends 2:30 PM)  
3 PM Afternoon dance  
7:30 PM Concert of festival musicians

## Sunday, October 21

9:30 AM Hymn singing at Union Church

**Tickets:** \$12 for whole weekend; \$10 for Saturday concert only. For full schedule, see [www.berea.edu/ac/ctm](http://www.berea.edu/ac/ctm).

there's a permanent exhibition of old-time machines and devices of all kinds. Phone: (706) 896-4191; e-mail: [gamtfair@alltel.net](mailto:gamtfair@alltel.net).

**October 13-14:** Annual Fall Fair, Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen, Berea, Ky. (at Memorial Park on West Jefferson St.). More than 120 artists and artisans will display their work; for more details, call (859) 986-3192; e-mail: [info@kyguild.org](mailto:info@kyguild.org).

**October 19-20:** Ninth annual national conference: "The Women of Appalachia: Their Heritage and Accomplishments," sponsored by Ohio University—Zanesville. Topics of papers will include everything from the domestic to the global, food and herbs, ethnology and folk music, poverty and public assistance, politics and labor relations. The website—

[www.zanesville.ohiou.edu/ce/wac](http://www.zanesville.ohiou.edu/ce/wac)—will keep you up to date as time comes closer. Or you may phone (740) 588-1401; e-mail, [ouzconted@ohio.edu](mailto:ouzconted@ohio.edu).

**October 18-21:** Fall edition of the 60th annual fairs, Southern Highland Craft Guild, Asheville Civic Center, Asheville, N.C. These exhibitions present the best work of some 200 of the organization's 900 members, accompanied by demonstrations, music and entertainment for adults and youngsters. You can find out more by calling (828) 298-7928; [www.southernhighlandguild.org](http://www.southernhighlandguild.org); e-mail: [info@craftguild.org](mailto:info@craftguild.org).

**October 18-21:** 33rd annual Celebration of Traditional Music, sponsored and produced by the Berea College Appalachian Center. Everybody knows by now how, from year to year, the celebration mixes continuity and change in ever fresh and interesting ways, and this year's offering seems likely to continue the tradition. This year's event begins with a free Thursday concert with the Carolina Chocolate Drops. For details get in touch with the Appalachian Center at (859) 985-3257; e-mail: [Deborah\\_Thompson@bereda.edu](mailto:Deborah_Thompson@bereda.edu).

# Berea in the Big

Students go to NYC and work with Coal



# Apple

## Field Delegation to the UN

by **Beth Bissmeyer, '09**

*Berea College student*

I first heard about the Appalachian Coal Field's Delegation last fall when Chad Berry took several students in my Appalachian Culture class to the Clearfork Community Institute in Tennessee. Delegation members told us about their work and their experiences at the United Nations earlier that year. These people were doing great work to try to bring an end to mountaintop removal (MTR), work that I wanted to be a part of. And in just a few months, I was.

I had no experience working to end MTR when I began working with the Delegation. What started as a favor for Randy Wilson grew into organizing a group of students from Berea to travel to New York City to assist the Delegation at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. After months of planning and organizing, a group of 20 left the Berea College campus early on the first Saturday of May for New York.

We spent three full days in New York and two very long days on the road. Our home in the city was St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Harlem where we slept on the sanctuary floor.

Sporting bright chartreuse shirts and hats demanding "STOP MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL," we spent Monday outside the UN telling people about MTR and promoting the Delegation's press conference. But Tuesday is when everyone's efforts really came to fruition.

The group spent the day setting up sound equipment, passing out info, making signs, and participating in the afternoon press conference. Several people spoke about their experiences with MTR and the need for sustainable and renewable energy. Some of the same people spoke again that night at the Music for the Mountains concert. Among the night's highlights were a performance from Jean Ritchie and a rousing speech by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

When I woke up Wednesday morning, I didn't want to leave. I didn't want to return to the world of classes, work, and the typical stressors of college. I didn't want to lose that sense of purpose, that I was doing something *worth* doing. And, luckily, I haven't. I'm ready to do more. ☸

**After leafleting, talking to people on the street, setting up equipment, and running around the UN trying to find some rope and duct tape for signage, Berea students helped the Coal Field Delegation get their press conference underway, letting people know the true cost of "cheap" energy.**

**Front row: Jessica Engle, Camille Hyberger, Bo Bashkov, Beth Bissmeyer, Erinn Bixby, Kayce Postlewait, Mikala Rollins. Middle row: Allan Bridges, Harold Burdette, Ben Reppert, Herbie Brock, Vickie Brock. Back row: Tricia Feeney, Chad Berry, Simone Bullen, Daniel Kadyrbekov.**



# Environmental education on campus

by **Cathy Cottrell, '08**

*Berea College student*

Situated at the foothills of the Cumberland Plateau, a region of the Appalachian Mountains, Berea College occupies a unique position to apply academic endeavors to the ecological issues of this 350 million year-old mountain range. These educational efforts include such programs as the Ecological Sustainability Education program (ESE), the Sustainability and Environmental Program (SENS), and the Berea College Forestry Program.

**Tammy Clemons** is the Sustainability Coordinator of the ESE program, aimed at furthering the college's sustainability initiatives. The key components involve campus programs and community outreach in the form of workshops, seminars, and annual conferences. Clemons is the "connect-the-dots" person, coordinating sustainability efforts among the many diverse departments, programs, and offices.

**Richard Olson** is the Director of the SENS program, whose goal is to infuse the teaching of sustainability concepts throughout the College curriculum while guiding and supporting the efforts of the College to practice sustainability. Courses, such as Sustainable Appalachian Communities, educate students about the challenges facing Appalachia, relying heavily on case studies and examples from Appalachia.

**John Perry**, College Forester, manages the 8,400 acres of Berea College Forest, one of the oldest efforts in scientific forestry in the United States. Forest is the land use most suited to the topography of Appalachia, and the forest is managed for education, demonstration, and economic development, including tree planting, species control, and restoration ecology projects. Perry plays an active academic role at the College in teaching related to forestry.

Berea College's commitment to sustainability stems from one of its "Great Commitments," which is "to encourage in all members of community a way of life characterized by plain living, pride in labor well done, zest for learning, high personal standards, and concern for the welfare of others." This commitment is daily being realized through the ESE, SENS, and Berea College Forestry programs which reflect Appalachia's unique bioregion. ❖



**Clemons**



**Olson**



**Perry**

## LOOKING FORWARD

Please check [www.berea.edulac](http://www.berea.edulac) for more updates.

**October 21-28:** Old-Time Week in West Virginia—a time of "great camaraderie and fun"—put on every autumn by the active Augustans over at Davis & Elkins. The days are filled with intensive small-group instruction, workshops with guest master artists and, in the evenings, square dancing, shape-note singing, flatfooting, and other such fun. The whole affair ends with the weekend Fiddlers' Reunion, which brings together dozens of top musicians. For specific details, write the Augusta Heritage Center, 100 Campus Drive, Elkins, W.Va. 26241, or phone (304) 637-1209; e-mail: [augusta@augustaheritage.com](mailto:augusta@augustaheritage.com); [www.augustaheritage.com](http://www.augustaheritage.com).

**October 27:** 34th annual Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, billed as "the largest celebration of authentic folkways in Virginia" and twice named one of the "Top Twenty Events in the Southeast" by the Southeast Tourism Society. A must for old-car buffs (with

at least 200, and probably more, on display) and for fans of old machines, "Virginia's largest showcase of regional traditions" will not neglect earlier sources of power; workhorses and mules will pull and plow. The whole show brings together folk culture and modern technology. By the way, nobody should miss the Virginia coon-mule jumping championship and the coon-dog water races. There's also a major quilt show. You can get further information from Ferrum College, Ferrum, Va.; phone, (540) 365-4416; [bri@ferrum.edu](mailto:bri@ferrum.edu).

**November 13:** 14th annual conference, Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center; Lexington Convention Center; cosponsored by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. Policymakers, educators and other citizens will talk about "Making Money Matter"—where Kentucky should target its educational resources to produce the best results. Featured speaker will be Marc Tucker, president of the National



# AC program focuses on diversity in Appalachia

Programming in the Appalachian Center this year will follow the theme of Pushing the Boundaries: Diversity in Appalachia. Here are some of our events this fall:

- ◆ September 28, 7:30 PM, Woods Penniman Commons: *Appalachian Heritage* Featured Author Reading—Silas House, with the work of featured artist, Russell May, presented by his daughter, Kathy.
- ◆ October 11, noon, Bruce 226: Dr. Jackie Burnside will present on African American communities in Madison County, Kentucky, based on research for her new book, *Berea and Madison County*. RSVP for lunch: (859) 985-3140.
- ◆ October 18-21: Celebration of Traditional Music (see page 5).
- ◆ November 1, 1:00 PM, Phelps Stokes Auditorium: College-wide symposium on Identity and Diversity in Appalachia. Where and what is Appalachia? And who are the many different people who call Appalachia home? These questions—and many more—will be addressed through personal stories and provocative insights from an array of speakers. Co-sponsored by CELTS, African and African American Studies, Black Cultural Center, Dance Programs, and Berea College Convocations.
- ◆ November 12, 3 PM and 7:30 PM: Biodiversity in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park: scientists and volunteers from the non-profit group Discover Life in America will speak about their collaborative effort in developing a model for biodiversity research.
- ◆ November 16, 7:30 PM, Woods Penniman Commons: *Appalachian Heritage* Featured Author Reading – Gurney Norman.

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Center on Education and the Economy. Full information from the sponsors at 1-800-853-2851; e-mail: info@kltprc.net.

**December 26-January 1:** Christmas Country Dance School, Berea College, directed by Joe Tarter. Devoted to the practice and enjoyment of authentic folk material, this famous school, which goes back to 1938, helps everyone find usable materials for recreation programs, teaching situations or personal benefit, and has continued to produce fresh generations of young teachers. You can participate in a variety of classes, including folk drama and storytelling, as well as dance itself; newcomers receive special attention. If you're interested, act now—registration with deposit is due by November 1. To find out more, call (859) 985-3431; e-mail: ccds@bereda.edu.

**February 3-23:** Winter session, New Opportunity School for Women, Berea, Ky. Successful applicants (up to 14 per session)

to this popular program for low-income women 30-55 spend three weeks learning about jobs and how to get them, and also about themselves and what they can do. The school offers career counseling throughout the year and also puts on a number of workshops that are open to anybody; the school has now produced more than 500 graduates. There's no tuition fee, and room and meals are provided as well. Note that **the deadline for applications is December 14**. You may apply if you're a high school graduate or have a GED certificate or are actively working on a GED. For full information, contact the executive director of the school, at 204 Chestnut Street, Berea, Ky. 40403, or phone (859) 985-7200; www.nosw.org.

*If you have an event you would like us to include in the next newsletter, please contact us at the Appalachian Center via e-mail at genevieve\_reynolds@bereda.edu or by phone at (859) 985-3140.*

**Music in the Air Somewhere: The Shifting Borders of West Virginia's Fiddle and Song Traditions**, by Erynn L. Marshall, is actually a two-for-one, a book-and-CD combination, explaining and illustrating the "shifting borders of West Virginia's fiddle and song traditions."



MUSIC in the AIR  
SOMEWHERE



It presents the oral histories and the music of seven eminent West Virginia musicians in its overall exploration of the relationship between instrumental and vocal traditions. You can get the package (\$35) from the West Virginia Press: 866-WVUPRESS or [www.wvupress.com](http://www.wvupress.com).

Now available, free, from the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center is **Measures and Milestones 2006: Trends Affecting Kentucky's Future**, a gavel-to-gavel presentation of the proceedings at the center's 13th annual conference last November. Besides that, the center's director, Michael Childress, notes that all its publications are distributed on line—[www.kltprc.net](http://www.kltprc.net)—and many are available in hard-copy form. You can phone 1-800-853-2851; e-mail: [ltprc@lrc.ky.gov](mailto:ltprc@lrc.ky.gov).

**Measures and Milestones 2006: Trends Affecting Kentucky's Future**  
The Conference Proceedings  
November 14, 2006



KENTUCKY

illustrating the "shifting borders of West Virginia's fiddle and song traditions." It presents the oral

13th annual conference last November. Besides that, the center's director, Michael Childress,

—Thomas Parrish

# Appalachian Heritage to publish new material from Thomas Wolfe

Thomas Wolfe (1900-1938) is the featured author for the Fall 2007 issue of *Appalachian Heritage*. Work started on this issue two years ago when editor George Brosi discovered that Shawn Holliday, a native of Williamson, West Virginia, and an English professor at Alice Lloyd College in Eastern Kentucky, had been



voted President Elect of the Thomas Wolfe Society. Holliday obtained a grant to study the Wolfe manuscripts at the Harvard Library and subsequently obtained permission for

*Appalachian Heritage* to print two previously-unpublished Wolfe pieces, both delightful, in this issue of the magazine. He also obtained articles from Deitz Wolfe, the only surviving Wolfe relative who knew him, and Mary Aswell Doll, the daughter of one of Wolfe's editors. These personal pieces are supplemented by scholarly articles and anecdotal essays by Earl Hamner, Jr., and Gurney Norman. In addition to the Wolfe material the issue includes an article entitled, "The Colored Folk Churches in East Tennessee," by Robert Boyd, a professor at Pellissippi State in Tennessee; poetry by former Virginia poet laureate, George Garrett; North Georgia activist

Helen Lewis; and several others. Both stories in the issue are by West Virginians. This is the first fiction publication by Vicki Crawford, a Hurricane housewife. Kevin Stewart's first book, a story collection entitled *The Way Things Always Happen Here* has just been released. It is reviewed in this issue along with books by Wendell Berry, Ron Rash, Dot Jackson, and Keith Maillard.

Upcoming featured author readings will spotlight Silas House on Friday, September 28, and Gurney Norman on Friday, November 16. House was the featured author for the Spring 2004 issue of the magazine, but he will highlight the Summer issue that featured the late Al Stewart, founder of *Appalachian Heritage* and the Appalachian Writers Workshop at Hindman, Kentucky. Gurney Norman was the featured author for the Summer 2005 issue but will highlight the Fall issue that features the late Thomas Wolfe. Both readings will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Commons of Woods-Penniman on the Berea College campus.

To subscribe to *Appalachian Heritage*, contact the subscription office at the University of North Carolina Press Journals Department: telephone (919) 962-4201, or by e-mail at [uncpress\\_journals@unc.edu](mailto:uncpress_journals@unc.edu). Subscription rates: \$20 for one year, \$38 for two years, or \$55 for three years. ❖



## ***Berea College: An Illustrated History,***

by Shannon H. Wilson (University Press of Kentucky).

The writer of an institutional history, whether of a corporation, a college, or some other entity, is a person who's willing to take some risks. The subject

institution's representatives, particularly if they're paying for the job, may praise the ideal of objectivity but often what they want is not history, but PR.

In 1955, Berea President Francis Hutchins faced the issue candidly. Speaking of Elisabeth Peck's book *Berea's First Century*, Hutchins said, "I wanted Mrs. Peck to write a nice history of the college for the centennial, and she did." Her book, says Shannon Wilson, is indeed "celebratory rather than critical." His own aim in this new, sesquicentennial book is, as he makes plain, to probe more deeply, to look back at the college's declarations and actions in the light of recent scholarship and even to suggest lines for further research. In dealing with an institution as self-consciously exceptionalist as Berea College, the author has in fact given himself a pretty good challenge, and has responded to it not with PR, but with genuine and absorbing history.

John G. Fee and his fellow founders made their purpose plain in the original 1859 charter—"to promote the cause of Christ." They would do this by making education available to any person, regardless of color, sex, caste or class. Berea would "discipline

minds," Fee said, "not merely to make students acquainted with science, but also to educate their hearts and develop their consciences." So, from the outset, Berea would be, or would aim to be, different from all other schools.

## **'Blue-grass' and Mountains**

The author organizes the book around the administrations of Berea's eight presidents. Since, as the story abundantly demonstrates, these administrations differed markedly from each other, the presidents in fact serve as excellent bearers of the story.

Perhaps the chief recurring question in all administrations is the relationship between the college's interracial commitment and its concern with white Appalachians. In practice, each of these has possessed its complexities, as the author shows in unusual and interesting detail. Interracial dating, for instance, posed a problem early on, and contrary to a common view, Berea's involvement with the people of the mountains was not invented by President William G. Frost. In the administration of Berea's first president, Henry Fairchild, the college spoke of reaching out to both "the colored man from the 'Blue-grass' and the loyal whites from the mountains."

Following a coup d'etat in 1892 against the second president, William B. Stewart (whose term remains something of a mystery), the dynamic and controversial Frost appeared on the scene, and though he did not discover the mountains, he did something much more striking—he discovered Appalachia. Things have not been the same since.

—Thomas Parrish

## Focus on diversity

continued from page 9

- ◆ Art exhibits in the Hutchins Library:  
**October**—"Made to be Played: Traditional Art of Kentucky Luthiers"—musical instruments and their makers, curated by Kentucky Arts Council's Folklife Program.  
**November**—"Windows on the Past: The Cultural Heritage of Vardy, Hancock County, Tennessee"—photographs and information on Melungeon heritage, with a presentation by DruAnna Williams Overbay on November 3.
- ◆ **January**—"Takes Some Kicking': Voices in Black Appalachia"—oral history excerpts and photographs documenting African American life in Appalachia, produced by Wilburn Hayden.

In the spring:

- ◆ February 8: A showing of the new film *Morristown: In the Air and Sun*, which explores the issues of immigration, factory flight, and the organized demand for economic justice in Appalachia and Mexico. Filmmaker Anne Lewis and labor attorney Fran Ansley will be here for the showing to lead discussions on the issues and the film.
- ◆ April 14-19: Fossil Fools, a multimedia arts residency exploring excessive energy use in our culture.

Other programs, to be scheduled:

- ◆ Mountain Women Rising, music and storytelling by members of the Appalachian Women's Alliance.
- ◆ MUSE Women's Choir from Cincinnati
- ◆ Dealing with Diversity Workshop

Check [www.berea.edu/ac](http://www.berea.edu/ac) for updates and more listings! ☛

# PHOTO ESSAY

## Brushy Fork Annual Institute



Community and nonprofit leaders from the Central Appalachian region gathered at Berea College September 12-14, 2007, for the third Brushy Fork Annual Institute. Approximately 135 area leaders took part in 11 different tracks on community economic development topics ranging from leadership and executive problem solving to website design. Nationally-known speakers including Becky Anderson, director of HandMade in America, and Dr. Vaughn Grisham told inspiring stories of other communities that had created their own successes. Carpetbag Theatre, a theatrical troupe from Knoxville, wove stories of the communities attending the Institute into a musical digital video. A networking café and a new system of web-based communications in coordination with the University of Kentucky was introduced so that participants may continue to communicate as a group and stay current on the region's issues. Proceedings from the sessions will be published in Brushy Fork Institute's newsletter *Mountain Promise*. For a copy, or a subscription to the newsletter, see Brushy Fork's website, [www.brushyfork.org](http://www.brushyfork.org).



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