

Monday Messages to Students from Alumni

From Jim Gregory, Class of 1967: You can always be proud of the education you are earning at Berea. I learned this very emphatically when, at Thanksgiving vacation of my senior year, I went to interview at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Being a holiday weekend, most of the other interviewees were from out of town and as I picked up my name badge, I noted many were from prestigious schools including Harvard, Yale, Brown, and Stanford. After six sometimes grueling interviews I was doubly discouraged about my prospects. The seventh interviewer, Chief of Psychiatry at Baylor (and later at Harvard), posed his last question: Jim, what do you think your chances are of being accepted here? I candidly replied they did not seem encouraging considering my comparative background. He kindly responded Baylor was looking for students from colleges like Berea and that if I wished to attend Baylor I would be welcome. I subsequently spent seven years there preparing for my very rewarding career in medicine, frequently realizing how fortunate I was to have attended Berea. Additionally, I gained an even greater appreciation of Berea's role in changing lives when I attended my 50th (gasp!) reunion. Time and again I heard I was the first in my family to attend college followed by a recounting of the many proud accomplishments of their offspring. From these and many other experiences, I have a lifelong appreciation of Berea and its mission. Be Proud!

From Edd Shull, Alumni: From your first greeting of welcome to Berea, that welcome becomes the beginning of your life long journey. A journey of becoming a Berean. A Berean is one whose nourishment and development are dependent upon a steady diet of spiritual enlightenment, educational enrichment, and a work ethic that your grandchildren will eulogize to their children. It is that affection and devotion to Berea that welcomes you to alumni activities and financial support after your graduation from Berea. It is those cherish memories of classmates, instructors, and events that will draw you back to Berea. No, not every meal will be a banquet nor every day a holiday. There will be challenges, concerns, and doubts but remember to share those inner thoughts with those who have your best interest and can help guide you through difficult times. Philosophers will tell you about Cardinal Virtues: To be prudent by seeking counsel to avoid serious mistakes. To practice temperance by restraining our desires and temptations. To seek justice by giving others the benefit of doubt. Welcome to Berea.

Pandemic