

Nolan Bishop Berry Academy Class of 1965

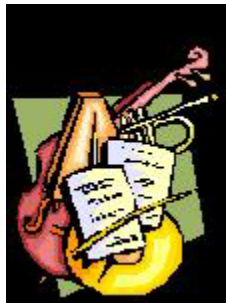
Berry College Class of 1969

Through various emails and the recent responses that all of us have received, I have learned a lot about the incredible hardships that many of the boys at Berry were going through. I only wish that we had had the maturity and wisdom to share with each other then.

I arrived at Berry on June 14, 1963; and one of the first comments I heard was, "rich kid pulled up in a Thunderbird." I did arrive in a Thunderbird, but there is where all similarities to the comment end. I was third of six illegitimate children and when Mr. Emory Lunsford, a guidance counselor, drove me to Berry and dropped me off, I had just become an emancipated minor. He and Mrs. Lunsford, a librarian, paid my first semester's tuition, room and board; and from that point, I was on my own. I was 14 years old, but because of having had accelerated classes, I was suddenly a junior, which suited me fine.

I had worked all my life, growing up on a one-mule farm, but at Berry I was exposed to a series of jobs - some pleasant, some not so pleasant; but in retrospect, I realize that I learned a great deal from each of those jobs. I learned how to drive while on the campus crew and by going to the store in Miss Mabel Thompson's car to get her a Coke - not to mention the town run in the old blue bus.

My music was -- and still is -- my life and I was able to keep it going with the choir and my Monday night excursion to rehearse and perform with the Rome Symphony. Getting back from rehearsal was another matter and many Monday nights found me walking The Stretch carrying a heavy cello. Individual practice was another matter and I had to learn how to get into Frost Chapel (without a key) for practice.



Nolan Bishop

After graduation in 1965, I went straight to Berry College and earned a Bachelor of Music degree in 1969. My masters degrees (one in music, one in education) came later.

In 1970, I married Vivian York, a home economist; and we have been blessed with three great children: Lt. Commander Bret Bishop (32), USN, a Georgia Tech graduate stationed in Hawaii; Monika Bishop (30) owner of Monika Bishop's TaeKwonDo Plus; and Colleen Linton (28) a third grade teacher. We have four grandchildren: Abigail Linton, 9; Blake Linton, 7; Sarah Bishop, 4; and James Bishop, 2.

I am currently the director of orchestras at Columbus High School Liberal Arts Magnet and I am celebrating year number 35 as an educator.

Thanks to all who have shared updates on their lives and I wish for each of you much happiness and continued success.

Nolan Bishop
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“You can take the boy out of Berry but you can’t take Berry out of the boy.”