

Steve Austin

Steve Austin is president and CEO of Bluegrass Tomorrow, a regional planning organization that promotes coordinated growth and preservation planning. A coalition of business, farming, development, and preservation interests works together to maintain a high quality of life and economic vitality for 13 counties in Central Kentucky.

He, earned both his law and landscape architecture degrees from UK, has worked as an economic development and town and regional planner for nearly 20 years. He was formerly director of planning for the Georgetown-Scott County (Kentucky) Planning Commission. During his tenure, the county became home to Toyota's largest North American production facility.

Wendell Berry

Wendell Berry, an internationally-known poet, essayist, farmer, and novelist, is a native Kentuckian who is the author of more than 40 books of poetry, essays, and novels. His collections of poetry include *A Timbered Choir: The Sabbath Poems 1979-1997*, *Entries: Poems*, *Traveling at Home*, *Collected Poems 1957-1982*, *Clearing*, *There Is Singing Around Me*, and *The Broken Ground*. His novels include *A World Lost*, *Remembering*, *The Memory of Old Jack*, *Jayber Crow*, and *Hannah Coulter (2004)*. Berry is also the author of prose collections including *Another Turn of the Crank; Sex, Economy, Freedom, & Community; Standing on Earth: Selected Essays*; and *A Continuous Harmony: Essays Cultural and Agricultural*. He earned both his undergraduate and master's degrees in English from UK and also studied creative writing at Stanford University as a recipient of a Wallace Stegner Fellowship.

Among Berry's honors and awards are fellowships from the Guggenheim and Rockefeller foundations, the T.S. Eliot Award, the Aiken Taylor Award for Modern American Poetry, and the Orion Society's John Hay Award. Berry has taught at both New York University and the University of Kentucky. He and his wife Tanya live on the Berry family farm in Port Royal, Kentucky. The farm is alongside the Kentucky River, not far from where it flows into the Ohio.

Janet Brown

Janet Brown is vice-president of Marin Organic, founder and chair of the Marin Food Policy Council, and program officer for food systems for the Center for Ecoliteracy. She also is a certified organic farmer. As Allstar Organics, she and her husband Marty Jacobson produce more than 40 different varieties of heirloom slicing and cherry tomatoes in addition to over 100 heirloom varieties of 14 other crops. They also produce antique roses and culinary herbs. Two years ago they launched a value-added line of essential oils and organic hydrosols. This year, Brown has launched a new line of dried organic herbs, herbal salts, and sugars.

Jon Carloftis

Jon Carloftis grew up in south-central Kentucky and is now recognized as one of the nation's premier garden designers. He earned an undergraduate degree in communications at UK, where he also studied horticulture, landscape architecture, and art history. Much of his garden design is done in New York City, where the lack of backyard space has led Carloftis to specialize in rooftop gardens, balconies, and courtyards. His designs have been featured in national publications, and he regularly contributes to national gardening magazines.

Carloftis has been awarded a landscaping design for his overall body of work by the Museum of the City of New York. He now lives in Bucks County, Pa.

Al Cross

Al Cross is director of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, based at the University of Kentucky, and an assistant professor in UK's School of Journalism and Telecommunications. He reported for Louisville's *The Courier-Journal* for 26 years, the last 15½ as its chief political writer, and continues to write a twice-monthly political column for the paper. His awards include sharing in the Pulitzer Prize won by *The Courier-Journal's* staff for general news reporting in 1989 for coverage of the nation's deadliest bush crash. He was national president of the Society of Professional Journalists

in 2001-02. He is a native of Albany, Ky., and a graduate of Western Kentucky University.

Robert Egger

Robert Egger is founder and president of the DC Central Kitchen. It uses food donated by regional food service businesses to fuel a nationally recognized culinary arts job training program for unemployed men and women. Egger chairs the Mayor's Commission on Nutrition in Washington and the board of *Street Sense*, Washington's "homeless" newspaper.

He was included in *The NonProfit Times* list of the "50 Most Powerful and Influential Nonprofit Leaders of 2006." He is also the recipient of the 2005 Volunteers of America Community Service award and the 2004 James Beard Foundations Humanitarian of the Year award.

Sarah Fritschner

Sarah Fritschner is the food editor of *The Courier-Journal* in Louisville. She has been a newspaper food writer since she graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1976 with a degree in nutrition. She promotes Louisville-area farmers markets and chairs the local FarmWorks organization, which publicizes farm markets during the growing season. She began the Ohio Valley Harvest Festival, a food festival that pairs local farmers with restaurateurs. Fritschner has contributed to the national food magazines and has appeared on the Television Food Network. Her books include *Derby 101*, *Sarah Fritschner's Holidays*, *the Express Lane Cookbook* and *Vegetarian Express Lane Cookbook*.

Bill Goodman

Bill Goodman is the host and managing editor of Kentucky Educational Television's (KET) Emmy Award-winning public affairs series *Kentucky Tonight*. He also hosts *bookclub@ket*, a monthly discussion of books by Kentucky authors, and the conversation series *One to One*, which has had guests including the legendary jockey Pat Day and

actress Patricia Neal. An avid cyclist, hiker, and climber, Bill brought his interest in an active lifestyle to KET's *The CommonHealth of Kentucky*, a 13-part series on health in which he traveled the state to profile models that work. Goodman is a native of Glasgow, Ky., and a graduate of Western Kentucky University.

Helge Hellberg

Helge Hellberg is executive director of Marin Organic, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating the first all-organic county in the nation. In this position, Hellberg works to promote and support local organic agriculture by creating alliances among educational and environmental organizations, food producers, consumers, and retailers.

Previously, he was marketing and communications director for California Certified Organic Farmers, one of the largest organic certifiers in the United States,

Hellberg holds a master's degree in marketing and communications and a bachelor's degree in music. He is working on a book entitled *From Cell to Community* about the benefits of local and organic agriculture.

Christopher Hirsheimer

Christopher Hirsheimer is a writer, photographer, and editor. She one of the founders of *Saveur* magazine, where she also was executive editor, and she has worked as an editor for the magazines *Metropolitan Home* and *Garden Design*. Hirsheimer is the co-author of four cookbooks, and her photographs have illustrated more than 15 cookbooks for such notables as Julia Child, Jacques Pepin, Lidia Bastianich, Mario Batalli, and Marion Cunningham. Her photographs also have appeared in magazines such as *Saveur*, *InStyle*, *Food & Wine*, *Country Home*, *Metropolitan Home*, and *Town & Country*. She and her husband live in rural Pennsylvania.

Erika Lesser

Erika Lesser is executive director of Slow Food USA, a nonprofit organization which encourages a broad cultural shift away from the industrial food system and fast life

toward slower and more harmonious life through a sustainable food system, regional food traditions, and the pleasures of the table.

Most recently, Lesser spent a year in Bra, Italy, the hometown and international headquarters of Slow Food, where she worked for the new University of Gastronomic Sciences. A native of Boston, Erika earned a master's degree in food studies from New York University and an undergraduate degree from Brown University in Italian studies and art history.

Sylvia L. Lovely

Sylvia L. Lovely is executive director and CEO of the Kentucky League of Cities, an organization of more than 364 cities across the Commonwealth in support of community innovation, effective leadership, and quality governance. It serves as the united voice of cities by supporting community innovation, effective leadership and quality governance. Lovely currently serves on the boards of Kentuckians for Better Transportation and Kentucky Habitat for Humanity and on the Governor's Commission on Family Farms. She is a graduate of Morehead State University, where she is on the Board of Regents, and the UK College of Law. She is an adjunct faculty member in the UK Martin School of Public Policy and Administration.

Peter Martinelli

Peter Martinelli is a sixth-generation Californian but the first in his family to make a living from farming. One of Marin Organic's most respected farmers and a member of its board, he also runs a vegetable distribution business. Martinelli grows more than 40 different varieties of fruit, vegetables, and flowers on two loamy, bowl-shaped plots ringed by wild blackberry bushes and nettles. He harvests both wild and cultivated crops from his farm and is active with groups that seek to find a balance between agriculture and the wild. His farming has earned him many awards for his careful stewardship.

Bobbie Ann Mason

Bobbie Ann Mason is UK's writer-in-residence. She was raised on her family's dairy farm in Mayfield, Ky. Mason earned a bachelor's in English from UK, a master's degree at the State University of New York at Binghamton, and a doctorate at the University of Connecticut. She has received fellowships from both the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation.

Mason's short story collections have included *Shiloh and other Stories* (1982) and *Nancy Culpepper* (2006). Her novels have included *In Country* (1985), which was made into a film in 1989; *Feather Crowns* (1993); and *An Atomic Romance* (2005).

Her memoir *Clear Springs* (1999), was a Pulitzer Prize finalist.

Lois Mateus

Lois Mateus is senior vice president of Brown-Forman, a diversified produce of fine quality consumer products headquartered in Louisville with offices around the world. Mateus is responsible for the company's communications, public relations, and corporate service programs, including travel and culinary programs and operations at brand homeplaces such as Woodford Reserve, Jack Daniel's, and Fetzer and Bonterra vineyards. She and her husband, Louisville businessman Tim Peters, also raise grass-fed Angus cattle on their Mercer County farm.

Layla Musselman

Layla George Musselman, a Kentucky native, graduated from Willamette University in Oregon with a B.A. in English and then worked in Nashville. She and her husband Austin now live in Louisville with their three young children. They spend most weekends on a family farm in Oldham County, where they raise shorthorn cattle. Her civic activities have included serving on the board of River Fields, an organization that works to promote the environmental health of the Ohio River. Musselman is passionately devoted to supporting local farmers, who are able to provide her family with the freshest and healthiest food.

Marion Nestle

Marion Nestle, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies and Public Health at New York University and the author of two award-winning books about nutrition—*Food Politics* and *What to Eat*. She earned her undergraduate degree (in bacteriology), her doctorate (in molecular biology) and her master's degree (in public health nutrition) from the University of California, Berkeley. She has been a senior policy advisor to the Department of Health and Human Services and served as associate dean of the School of Medicine of the University of California at San Francisco. Nestle has received numerous awards for her writing and her work in public health. She is also the author of *Safe Food; Bacteria, Biotechnology, and Bioterrorism* as well as numerous articles in scholarly journals. She is a fellow of the American Society of Nutritional Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Tom Prather

Tom Prather serves as executive vice president of the NewCities Institute and is also in his third term as a magistrate on the Scott County Fiscal Court.

He has also served as president of Central Bank, FSB Georgetown, and still serves as is board chairman. His civic leadership activities are numerous and include 10 years on the Georgetown City Council and eight years as Georgetown's mayor.

Prather's years as mayor coincided with the critical first years of Kentucky's Toyota experience, in which lasting relationships were developed between the corporation and Georgetown and the broader Kentucky community.

Prather is a graduate of Centre College, the General Motors School of Management, and the Kentucky Bankers Association banking school.

Susie Quick

Susie Quick is a writer and editor on sustainable food and farming and the owner of Honest Farm, a nonprofit sustainable demonstration farm in Midway, where a variety of

crops are grown for sale to restaurants and the public. She was the initial food editor and stylist for *Real Simple* magazine. Quick also has been a freelance writer, editor and stylist for several national magazines. Her books include *Quick Simple Food* and *The Cake Club*. Quick's has an undergraduate degree in English and has studied at Giuliano Bugialli's Cooking School in Florence, Italy and the Institute of Culinary Education in New York.

Frank Stitt III

Frank Stitt III, called by *Gourmet* magazine "the culinary king of Alabama," is chef of a family of four restaurants in Birmingham and author of the cookbook *The Southern Table*. To his restaurants—Highlands Bar & Grill, Bottega, The Café at Bottega, and Chez Fonfon—he brings his passion for the rustic techniques and ingredients of southern France and Italy to the table. At Highlands, for example, the flavors of America's South are combined with the techniques and preparations of southern France. Stitt is passionate about the sources of his ingredients, choosing local purveyors who farm with humane and sustainable methods.

Warren Weber

Warren Weber is the president of the Marin Organic Board of Directors and a board member of both the Marin Agricultural Land Trust and the Center for Urban Education and Sustainable Agriculture. He also is the owner of Star Route Farms, the oldest continuously certified organic farm in California. After receiving his Ph.D. in literature from the University of California, Berkeley, Weber began farming a 5-acre plot in 1974 with a horse-drawn plow and a lot of "long-haired ambition." He now produces some of the Bay Area's most sought after leafy greens, herbs, edible flowers, legumes, and tender seasonal vegetables.

Paul Wesslund

Paul Wesslund is vice president for communications and editor of *Kentucky Living* magazine with the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives in Louisville.

Kentucky Living is the largest circulation publication in Kentucky, with 500,000 subscribers at 23 electric co-ops. Previously, Wesslund was with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Washington, D.C., as Washington correspondent for statewide rural electric publications, then later as an associate communications director. He served as president of the Cooperative Communicators Association in 1987-88. Wesslund was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, and graduated with a B.A. in communications from Macalester College in St. Paul.