



ALUMNI UPDATE

WINTER 2019

A Note from Dr. Jim Owens '79

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Asbury University recognizes that communication competence is vital to success in every field and strongly encourages the development and understanding of a Christian philosophy of communication. The objective of the Communication Arts Department is to prepare students to communicate truthfully and effectively in this age of diversity.



The School includes two departments with multidimensional majors: the Department of Communication, Worship & Theatre Arts and the Department of Media, Journalism & Digital Storytelling. The School of Communication Arts offers an M.A. in Communication Arts with an emphasis in Digital Storytelling, as well as an M.F.A. in Screenwriting and an M.F.A. in Film and Television Production. These graduate programs overlap with the undergraduate media program, allowing undergraduate students to earn an M.A. in one additional year.

Highlights from this year include:

- The Theatre Department made its second trip to London to study acting at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre for two weeks in July. Twelve Asbury students performed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Globe under the direction of Peter Hamilton Dyer.
- In August, ten Asbury students performed an original pro-life show, *Crowned with Glory and Honour*, to sold-out audiences at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland.
- Worship Arts students produced another new album, "Mountain", with student-written songs. Several of these songs were featured on Spotify Playlists, an enormous honor.
- Fifty students are currently preparing to work at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in professional media positions.
- Two graduate students are preparing to work in media positions at the 2020 Youth Olympics in Switzerland in January.
- More than 20 students have been freelancing for ESPN's Drone Racing Competition over the past year.
- WACW has changed its name to Air90. "AIR" stands for Asbury Internet Radio and "90" is in honor of Asbury being established in 1890.
- Writers Group is a new opportunity for students to meet weekly to share scripts and story ideas, and provide critique and encouragement to each other. Currently 12 students meet under the supervision of Prof. Sean Gaffney.
- This past summer, undergraduate and graduate students created a short film that Professor Sean Gaffney then wrote and produced. Professor Gaffney was able to bring in a number of film professionals who mentored our students through the production.
- This fall, we introduced a new, on-campus B.A. Major in Instructional Design. Other new programs are currently under consideration.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: *Abby Witt '17*

Newly promoted Content Producer for the PGA TOUR, Abby Witt credits much of her success to Asbury University and the 2016 Olympic Games. Hoping to cover swimming and Michael Phelps while in Rio, Witt actually covered her first love, golf. This led to networking with people from the Golf Channel, which in turn helped her at graduation. A 2017 graduate, she is now a producer on the weekly program, *Inside the PGA TOUR*, which runs 45 weeks out of the year. She also produces golf-related specials for NBC and CBS, working with TOUR players on interviews and special shoots. Witt loves her job and feels the PGA TOUR is her second family.

Along her journey, Abby has learned that it doesn't matter how much time it takes to achieve your dream — if you spend the time, you will achieve it. She's also learned that she has to be true to herself, by remembering who she is and where she comes from — as it's easy to get swept up in the lifestyles of others. "Attitude is everything. If you aren't a good person, others will not want to be around you," she says. "Attitude and timing. Never doubt the Lord's timing. Trust in Him."



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Asbury Student Wins Award for Poignant Radio Drama

November 13, 2019 — Ty Schadt '20 was awarded first place honors by the College Broadcasters, Inc (CBI). Schadt was recognized for writing and producing the radio drama "The Drive." "It's a story about a father and son who are faced with a startling reality and must come to terms with an uncertain future through elements of fatherly love and youthful innocence," Schadt said.

For more information about the School of Communication Arts, visit

asbury.edu/comarts
asbury.edu/gradcom

To update your contact information or to share a class note, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@asbury.edu



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:
Lisa Jones, ED.D.

Assistant Professor of Instructional Design and Program Coordinator of Instructional Design in the School of Communication Arts Lisa Jones has taught in higher education for fifteen years. When the position in Instructional Design, her area of expertise, opened up at Asbury University, she believes it was truly a gift from God. She is excited to be a part of a vibrant and Christ-focused institution.

Speaking about what she loves most about her discipline, she replied, "It's never boring! Because technology is constantly changing, the field of Instructional Design is always moving forward and perfecting better ways of delivering content in a teaching and learning environment. And I get to work with cutting edge new technology almost on a weekly basis."

Instilling in the minds of her students that they can achieve whatever they put their minds to, by the grace of God, is of great importance to Jones. "If setbacks come, (and in life they will), they can still achieve their dreams, even if it is 'one bite at a time'."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Seth Kinuya '20



Senior Seth Kinuya's recognition of broken communication and how it leads to broken relationships, paired with his love for people and building connections with them, led to his double major at Asbury. A Communication Arts student with an emphasis in International Communication, Seth is also pursuing a secondary degree in Intercultural Studies with an emphasis in social justice. He serves as the Vice President of Student Intercultural Programs and works in the

Admissions Office as an ambassador. Seth is grateful for the support of the faculty and staff at Asbury and the freedom he has to explore multiple opportunities here. As an international student from Nairobi, Kenya, Seth plans to return home after graduation for a period before heading to Jordan to work in International Policy (diplomacy).



DID YOU KNOW? The 16th edition of Jim Owen's "Television Production" textbook published by Rutledge was the most popular television production textbook in Europe and is the second most popular in the United States. The textbook is currently being used at Harvard in a media studies course. He recently completed the 17th edition.