

AMBASSADOR

ASBURY UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2024



STEWARDSHIP

A PATHWAY TO A FLOURISHING FUTURE

Unveiling President Brown's New Asbury Strategic Focus







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1, 2 Students traveled to the warm beaches of Florida in the winter and hiked Tennessee over spring break for Set Apart Retreats. 3 Fans of all ages attended TeamAU's home basketball games. 4 The Asbury Music and English Departments welcomed the public to a free concert in early December. 5 Eagle Sales competition hosted by The Dayton School of Business 6 The Asbury University Honors Program (AUHP) had an exciting lineup of 2023-24 Colloquium speakers including Dr. Felicia Song, pictured at center with AUHP Director Paul Nesselroade '89 and Assistant Director Sally Stiegemeier '89 Shelton. Song is professor of Sociology at Westmont College and spoke on 'Recovering Personhood, Presence, and Place in the Digital Age.'



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ASBURY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE
VOL. 51 ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2024

ASBURY UNIVERSITY

is a private, Christian, liberal arts institution, providing academic excellence in a context of spiritual vitality. This nationally recognized, nondenominational university offers over 130 undergraduate majors, plus degree-completion, graduate degrees and high school dual-enrollment programs to a student body of more than 1,900. Founded in 1890, the University's globally aware heritage has more than 22,000 living alumni who live and serve in all 50 states and more than 80 nations.

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On The Cover

The TeamAU student section is a big hit in the Luce Center during basketball games.



The Three Dimensions of Stewardship

I WANT TO SHARE THREE STORIES.

Years ago, I was made aware of a student who was working full-time to pay for his education at Asbury University. At one point, his financial situation became too precarious and something had to give, resulting in him deciding to drop classes. Upon hearing this, and in a radical act of generosity, his co-workers pooled their savings and covered his tuition so he could continue his education at Asbury and eventually graduate.

More recently, the 10-year-old daughter of one of our alums created, marketed, and sold beaded wristbands for a school project and decided to tithe the earnings of \$52.58 to Asbury for student scholarships.

And, I had lunch with a current student who had been accepted to a prestigious state school program that would assure him a job, cover his tuition, and even pay him a stipend. He chose Asbury instead. Why?

“Because of the professors, community, and opportunities for spiritual formation.”

These are but a few instances among seemingly infinite accounts of sacrifice, generosity, and commitment to the whole person education offered at Asbury University. The stories are heartwarming, but they also raise important questions of stewardship. What, for example, is our responsibility to the student and his generous co-workers whose financial sacrifice made his education possible? Or our responsibility to the selfless entrepreneurialism of adolescent Asburians? What about our responsibility to students who choose Asbury for academic and spiritual criteria unique to our school?

FOR ASBURY UNIVERSITY, I SEE THREE DOMINANT DIMENSIONS OF STEWARDSHIP.

First, we have fiduciary responsibility to faithfully and prudentially steward every dollar that is earned, gifted, and expensed as an institution. Fulfilling this responsibility

demands clearly articulated budget measurements, accountability to budget management, effective communication, prioritizing the budget items that best fulfill our mission, and operational efficiencies.

Second, in addition to our fiduciary responsibility, we have a relational obligation to our community, our students, our alumni, our donors, and our stakeholders to faithfully manage our resources, particularly as followers of Christ. I have often said that our identity not only speaks to “who” we are; it governs “how” we are. We are at our best when we fulfill our work through the currency of relationship, trust and goodwill.

Finally, stewardship means maintaining a missional fidelity to being a Christian university that takes both of those descriptors, Christian and university, seriously. Part of stewarding incoming tuition, auxiliary, and gift revenue to Asbury is recognizing that those dollars rely on an assumption of our institution maintaining a commitment to our mission of intellectually rigorous and spiritually formative education — academic excellence and spiritual vitality. Simply put, our students matriculate based upon our mission; donors give to Asbury to fulfill our mission.

Stewardship is not just management. It is more. It is our fiduciary, relational and missional responsibility to the students, staff, faculty, alumni and stakeholders — past, present and future — who have strengthened the Asbury architecture through sacrifice, generosity and commitment.



Kevin J. Brown, Ph.D.
President



An Eye on the future

A vision of faithful stewardship drives Asbury into the spring

04



Equine studies major **Rebecca Hedman '24** benefited from equine based therapy in some of the darkest times of her life. And now, her Asbury University story of growth and healing — like so many others — is one of transformation that was made possible by the generosity of others.

“A lot of my experience at Asbury has been restorative work in my identity, my walk with the Lord, and in my community, I’ve walked out restored, made new, and forgiven. I remember before coming to Asbury, I had seen the world and was disappointed. Now, I have seen Jesus, and he has changed everything.”



Rebecca Hedman

Upon graduation, Hedman plans to attend Asbury Theological Seminary and then pursue a career in the growing field of equine therapy so she can use horses in therapy to bring hope and healing to others.

Hedman’s experience is reflective of Asbury’s mission, which is accomplished by thoughtful and diligent fiduciary responsibility that prioritizes faithful stewardship of every dollar that is earned, gifted, and expensed by Asbury. The focus is always first and foremost on the formative student experience.



NEW OUTDOOR VENUE TO BE NAMED IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT EMERITUS DR. SANDRA GRAY

President Emeritus Dr. Sandra Gray has remained actively involved in support of Asbury since her leadership tenure from 2007 to 2019 during which Asbury experienced transformative growth still being realized today. The school went from a college to a university, launched a record-breaking fundraising campaign, made critical leadership hires, achieved enrollment records, opened the state-of-the-art Miller Center for Communication Arts, and so much more. (Visit the Spring 2019 issue of the Ambassador on [asbury.edu](https://www.asbury.edu) to read more.)

And this spring, the Board of Trustees announced by unanimous vote that the new Outdoor Venue will be named in honor of Dr. Sandra Gray. The venue's mission is to open Asbury to the community in a larger way.

"It is fitting that a president who had such a sense of hospitality and love for our students and the Asbury family is honored in this way," said Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Strategic Partnerships Dr. Mark Troyer. "Her desire to expand Asbury's reach and impact makes this an easy decision to connect her tenure with a venue that will welcome more students, families and friends to Asbury University for decades to come."

Construction on Phase I of the project is complete and includes a collegiate competition track, field events area, turf soccer field, lights, fencing, storage building, and the beginning of stadium seating. The second and final phase of the project begins this spring and will be complete by summer 2025. It will include two buildings, landscaping, expanded parking and access areas, and additional media and technology including a video scoreboard. The buildings will provide meeting space, public restrooms, locker rooms, a training room, and referee and coach spaces.

The Advancement team is working on raising the final \$3 million to complete the project, which will total more than \$12 million and Troyer invites alumni and friends to honor the former president by joining in the final phase of fundraising for the important project.

"We are all the recipients of Dr. Gray's legacy of effective leadership and service. I feel as though we are harvesting seeds she faithfully planted years ago. Dr. Gray has been an effective, influential, and transformative leader without compromising character. I do not know of a higher compliment."

To donate to the project, visit [asbury.edu/outdoor-venue](https://www.asbury.edu/outdoor-venue).





Renderings show Phase II of the Outdoor Venue. To learn more, visit asbury.edu/outdoor-venue.

OTHER UPCOMING PROJECTS

- This summer, the renovated choral room will be dedicated as the **Donaldson Choral Room**, made possible through the giving of Asbury alums who sang under the leadership of Don Donaldson, long time music faculty and Choir director.
- The 2023 Reunion Gift project provided funds for a renovation of **Glide-Crawford Parlor** area and it is our hope to dedicate that during this summer's reunion.
- Spaces in **Trustees** residence hall will also get a face lift.
- Asbury continues to raise funds for the endowment of the **Set Apart Retreats** that have had a significant impact on the spiritual temperature of the campus.
- We are excited about stewarding more **endowed scholarships** available to students than any time in our history and continuing to work with families who want to establish named scholarships to honor loved ones and bless Asbury students in the future.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

“Asbury is not simply a non-profit educational entity or a degree-granting institution,” said President Dr. Kevin Brown. “Asbury is a broad community of women and men who, though diverse in background, share in a life-altering, transformative experience of intellectual growth, character formation, and being tightly woven into the communal fabric of brothers and sisters in Christ. Asbury is characterized by its people, and its people are characterized by a thick sense of Christian community.”

With this mission at the forefront, Asbury’s leadership has thoughtfully stewarded its funds in a way that honors Christ, helping lead to the University endowment almost doubling in the last decade, reaching approximately \$74 million. More than two-thirds of the funds are directed to student scholarships, continuing the efforts to make Asbury as affordable as possible.

Stewardship (expense controls and operational efficiencies) is part of Brown’s three-year Strategic Focus, announced at the end of 2023. The plan’s other facets are Sustainable Growth (revenue generation) and Cultural Climate (trust, communication, and missional buy-in). The vision requires clearly articulated budget measurements, accountability, effective communication, budgeting priorities that best fulfill Asbury’s mission, and operational efficiencies that release staff and faculty to focus on activities core to the mission. The stewardship of time is as important as the stewardship of funds.

HEAR REBECCA'S STORY ON THE THIS IS ASBURY PODCAST



Available wherever you get your podcasts!

KEEPING COSTS LOW FOR STUDENTS

The ongoing work of stewardship also translates to Asbury maintaining one of the state’s lowest room and board rates, helping make an excellent academic experience. In fall of 2023, Asbury welcomed its second largest incoming class in history and 100 percent of those students received financial aid, as well as added scholarships and grants.

“I think it is important to talk about our definition of being ‘student centric,’” noted Brown. “Specifically, being student centric means ‘organizing strategies, resources, and decisions in a manner that prioritizes the student’s intellectual, communal, moral, and spiritual good — their preparation, maturation, opportunities, and well-being.”

Senior **Charlie Cox** explains how financial donations funded the continuation of his business administration degree.



Charlie Cox

“In between my sophomore and junior year, my parents died in a car accident,” he explained. “It was solely through the help of financial donors that has allowed me to continue to come to Asbury. I think of Paul when he has a thorn in his flesh and cries out to the Lord to heal it. God says, ‘my grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.’ When I look at my time at Asbury, I see individuals strengthening me in my weakness, and that’s a gift from God.”



As Brown said, with each project, program, initiative, or donation, the faithful drivers behind formation and stewardship are the people. Engaging a mindset of service and humility, we thank the Lord for a generous community of those involved with the stewardship focus of Asbury thus far.

“Giving to Asbury and funding our scholarships is a ‘living vote’ for the next generation of Asburians who are going to serve the professions, institutions, and the Church in faithful neighbor-serving, God-honoring ways,” Brown said. “I am more confident in the coming generation than ever.”

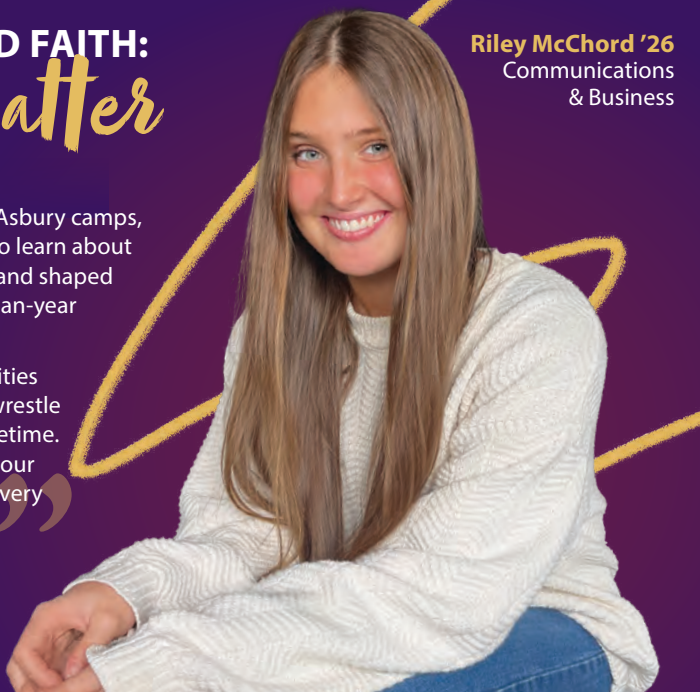
SCHOLARSHIPS, FRIENDS, AND FAITH:

Why Camps Matter

“Before college, I had the privilege of attending a few Asbury camps, including ImpactU to learn filmmaking and SUMMIT to learn about Biblical worldview and apologetics! Both challenged and shaped me in every way. They are the reason I met my freshman-year roommate and lifelong friend.

These camps provide potential scholarship opportunities and cultivate spaces to dive into deep relationships, wrestle with new ideas, and make memories that will last a lifetime. Even more than that, they provide opportunities for your faith to become your own. I still work as a counselor every summer to be around this next generation of leaders!”

Riley McChord '26
Communications
& Business



Learn more and register at
asbury.edu/camps before spots fill up



A week of Remembering *the Outpouring*



Pictured from left to right: Jeannie Banter '06, Lena Marlowe '23, Charlie Cox '24, Elena Overman '25, Canaan Yan '25

Asbury gathered in Hughes one year later to celebrate and worship the God-led spiritual awakening that began on Feb. 8, 2023.

It's hard to imagine one year has passed since God poured out overwhelming love on Asbury's campus during the Outpouring in Feb. 2023. The Asbury community gathered during multiple events in the week of Feb. 5, 2024, to remember and celebrate the work He did then and continues to do now.

Hughes Auditorium rang with worship during a special Chapel on Wednesday, Feb. 7, and a community service on Thursday night to honor those who have supported Asbury through prayer, volunteering, and discipling students during and since the Outpouring. The following evening, Worship Him at Midnight (WHAM)/Gen Z worship facilitated a space where students shared their personal testimonies and gathered in prayer for the next generation's spiritual climate, while reminiscing on how the event influenced the faith journey of Asburians.

“In the last year, I have remarked many times that I don't know if there is a particular formula for what creates what we saw and experienced last February, but I have some sense of what sustains it. What fosters it. What gives it structure. And what gives space to unfold. The people; and people of a certain character. Selfless and radically humble. With a high spiritual temperature, a holy imagination.”

DR. KEVIN BROWN
ASBURY PRESIDENT

In the year since the miraculous 16-day move of God, Asbury has watched in awe how God has made himself known to the campus community and many others around the world. Many witnesses traveled to testify on the University's spiritual transformation.

“A year ago, God generously poured out His power, presence, kindness, and gentleness, which captivated a generation and a lot of Christian leaders who needed hope,” said Asbury Pastor in Residence Zach Meerkreebs. “In Galatians 6:9, it says ‘Don't grow weary for doing good, for in due time you will reap what you sow.’ I think the Outpouring was an encouragement for those who were weary, getting to experience the reaping for those 16 days and even now.”

In January, Meerkreebs spoke to 55,000 college students at Passion Conference in Atlanta, Ga., an annual conference with a purpose to unite college students from around the nation for a spiritual awakening. It was one of many trips made around the nation and the world by members of Asbury's community in the last year.

“We were so humbled to be a part of Passion, and both share about the Outpouring and plead for these students to contend for more!” said Meerkreebs. “The team there was humble, hungry, and so moved by what they saw and learned from Asbury.”

MORE THAN

55 Individual Students & 10 Faculty or Staff

SHARED IN OVER

50 venues in 8 countries

Tens of thousands of people in audiences have heard the Gospel and stories of the Outpouring from Asbury witness teams. A recent group shared at Mission Connexion in Portland, Ore., addressing intercessory prayer and revival, while other students congregated at nationwide churches, conferences, and universities to tell their stories.

Elena Overman '25, pictured on page 8, second from right, served on church witness teams and discussed how the opportunity to testify a year later impacts her faith journey.

"Having the opportunity to speak about the impact of the Outpouring a year later was honestly extremely cathartic," she said. "A lot can happen in a year, and I am endlessly grateful for the work that God has done in my life. Getting to share about His mercy and grace has been one of the greatest honors of my life."

Jeremy Simmons '18, Asbury's coordinator of academic marketing, shares how the Outpouring led him to create artwork out of experiencing the power of God's presence.



Simmons shares his Outpouring story through his painting, "Heaven Meets Hughes."

"Jesus met me and so many other people in Hughes last February. On the second day of the Outpouring, I had a vision of multitudes gathering on the steps of Hughes with the 'fire' spreading out onto the sidewalks and around the globe," said Simmons. "My mind was blown as I witnessed thousands coming here to experience God in a deeper way. I tried to capture what the Holy Spirit burned on my heart through painting."

Throughout the remembrance week in February, Office of Spiritual Life also hosted a workshop "How to Share your Story," which gave students pointers on how to break down the life-changing events of the Outpouring and communicate it with utmost care and authenticity, giving more Asburians confidence to go out and share the Good News.



In February 2023, the Asbury community, along with tens of thousands of people from around the world, experienced something special in Wilmore — what many are calling a revival, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and a move of God that is still shaping a generation of students and rewriting the story in so many lives.

In a special series of the *This is Asbury* podcast, Vice President of Student Life **Rev. Dr. Sarah Thomas '93 Baldwin** shares behind-the-scenes stories from the faculty, staff, and students at Asbury and how they witnessed firsthand God changing the lives of so many people — from our own community and far beyond — and what has happened since those remarkable 16 days in Hughes.

To listen and follow along in our limited Outpouring series, visit asbury.edu/Outpouring or asbury.edu/ThisIsAsbury or however you get your podcast content.

A PLETHORA OF SETTINGS

Witness Team Overview

Since February 2023, students on the Witness Teams have spoken to countless people in the audiences they have blessed. They have traveled to over 50 different venues in 16 states and eight countries. **Here are some fun facts about where our students have been:**

INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

- England
- Canada
- Costa Rica
- Malaysia
- Germany
- The Netherlands

SETTINGS

- Churches (*mega and small*)
- Youth Groups
- Recovery Centers and Maximum Security Prison
- Media (*TV, radio, podcast*)
- Festivals and Conferences
- Colleges and Universities



Asbury's Intercultural Life Honors Students and Their Unique Cultural Backgrounds

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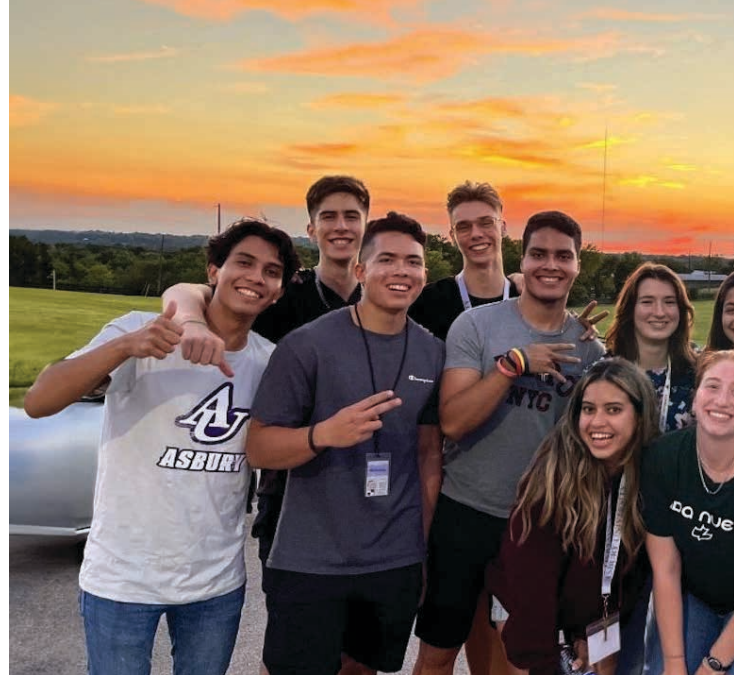
Enrollment of international, U.S. ethnic minority and third culture students has grown by more than 11 percent over the past 20 years at Asbury. Thanks to the Office of Intercultural Life's new location on the third floor of the Rader Student Center, there is space for these students to gather and be supported, complete with a lounge and a conference room for student leaders to plan events and programs. Through the generosity of a donor, the lounge is consistently stocked with teas, snacks, and sweets from local markets that represent the students' home countries.

The new community space is an extension of the many resources the Office of Intercultural Life provides for the students it serves, from the Intercultural New Student Asbury's Intercultural Life Honors Students and Their Unique Cultural Backgrounds Orientation (INSO) at the beginning of the school year to monthly student alliance gatherings and cultural heritage festivals. Students experience numerous opportunities to adjust to campus life while still celebrating their cultural backgrounds and can also share their home cultures with their peers.



Dr. Dawn Kilian leads the Office of Intercultural Life.

Dr. Dawn Kilian is in her third year as director of Intercultural Life. Throughout her tenure, she has focused on building a campus-wide intercultural community through a balance of events for the entire campus to celebrate different cultural traditions represented in Asbury's student body, as well as events on and off campus for members of these intercultural groups.



In September, students received transportation support and money to purchase authentic cuisine at Lexington's Latino Festival. Intercultural Life's immersive trip to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati supplied lunch and transportation to and from the museum. Recently, students enjoyed KPOT Korean BBQ and Hot Pot's authentic Asian food to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Another feature of Intercultural Life is the opportunity for student leadership and growth which Kilian names as another priority of her work with the student leaders of each alliance group. The Black, Latino, Asian, and International Student Alliances and MuKappa (missionary students and third-culture students) each have two student leaders who plan events and provide support to the students in their group. In addition to alliance leaders, the Office of



Intercultural Life also has interns who facilitate office tasks and help support the entire intercultural student body.

“My favorite part of being involved with Intercultural Life has been one-on-one time with other students,” said **Melissa Richard '24**, an intern with Intercultural Life for the 2023-2024 school year. “I’m so thankful for the opportunity to witness ways in which they have grown in their walk of faith and plugged into campus life!”

On April 5, the organization kicked off its inaugural Festival of Nations: a combined celebration of all of Asbury’s cultural heritage groups.

You can read personal stories from several of these students and find more information on the Intercultural Life website at asbury.edu/interculturallife.

JOB EXPERIENCE IN A GLOBAL SETTING

A Cross Cultural Experience (CCE) is a requirement amongst undergrad students in order to strengthen their abilities in interacting with the world community, to expand their worldview, and to increase their cultural sensitivity. Asbury’s Deese Initiative Program (formerly the Asbury Initiative Program) gives Asbury students the opportunity to explore vocational, global service opportunities prior to graduation, with the intent of potentially empowering a new generation of long-term international service.

Founded in 2003, the former Asbury Initiative Program was established with a pledge of \$1 million from **Phyllis McRoberts '53 West** and her husband, Stephen R. West, in honor of the life and ministry of **Ernest M. Steury, M.D. '53** and **Mrs. Jennie Sue Groce '54 Steury** who served as missionaries in Kenya with World Gospel Mission.

The program received permanent funds and rebranding from **Wynelle Scott '61 Deese** in 2020 allowing it to continue as one of the most incredible opportunities on campus for students.

The Judge and Mrs. J.W. Deese Initiative Program continues to further the purpose of volunteer work in the areas of international community, social and economic development, public wellness and treatment, literacy and education, and other public services in developing countries.

The Deese grant awards students funds to fully cover a five-to-eight-week service experience in a developing country, plus a \$300/week stipend to cover lost wages in the summer.

Six recipients have traveled across the globe in the past two years thanks to the Deese Initiative Program. Some of the vocational focuses for mission services include history, global health communications, social work, and equine-assisted services.

To help fund the Deese Initiative Grant to impact future students, visit asbury.edu/give.



2023 Winners of the Deese Initiative Grant. From left to right: Zeke Atha '23, Andrew Seamands '24, Ashlynn Treviño '23, and Melissa Richard '24.



ASBURY STUDENT LIFE VICE PRESIDENT PUBLISHES OUTPOURING BOOK

What would you do if God showed up when you least expected it? **Rev. Dr. Sarah Thomas '93 Baldwin** reflects on this question in her new book titled: "Generation Awakened: An Eyewitness Account of the Powerful Outpouring of God at Asbury."



Asbury Student Life Vice President Dr. Sarah Baldwin recently published a book about the Outpouring.

"Jesus poured love out upon our students, and it overflowed into Wilmore, the region, the United States and the world," she said. "Generation Z did awaken to the presence of Jesus at the altar and through simple worship, scripture reading, testimony, and freedom from sin. As we responded with testimonies, joyful worship, restoration of relationships, and repentance, the love of God immersed us."

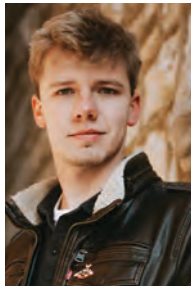
"I was taking jumps in which God met me, but I was still having trouble trusting," said Boss, explaining his switching between part-time jobs and creative work. "A week later, I get an email from Sean Gaffney to work on 'Gabriel and the Guardians.'"

As of now, "Gabriel and the Guardians" has locked several scripts in its early production process and given the co-production efforts between the U.S. and Japan on this series, the episodes also will be translated into Japanese. Boss's storyboarding feature film work will be seen on Nickelodeon once it wraps production.

"Asbury taught me that the trick isn't how good you are at your craft, the trick is to be someone who is kind," said Boss. "I haven't received a single job in media from portfolios, but from people who I showed kindness to."

Learn more: angel.com/torches/guardians.

ALUM FREELANCES FOR NICKELODEON AND NEW ANIME SERIES



Cooper Boss '22 recently wrote episodes for an upcoming anime series funded by Angel Studios and produced by Colossal Studios. Set to release in 2025, "Gabriel and the Guardians" is a captivating fantasy series that draws inspiration from ancient Hebrew text.

"The collaborative nature of storytelling has been fun with this series," said Boss, a former Media Communication and Spanish student. "I get to use what I learned about writing good stories from professors Sean Gaffney, **Andrea Gyertson '95 Nasfell**, and Rich Manieri."

Cooper Boss '22 wrote episodes for an upcoming anime series funded by Angel Studios and produced by Colossal Studios.

Boss collaborated with Asbury's Associate Professor of Screenwriting Sean Gaffney to produce this series. Gaffney brings significant industry experience to the table, previously working as story administrator for Warner Bros. Features.

Halfway through college, Boss found his passion for animation and storyboarding and later began taking Project City TV classes guided by DreamWorks story artist, Radford Sechrist, guiding him through writing, storyboarding, and editing a pilot for his original series, "Blue Mountain Mysteries."

After graduating, through his class connections, Boss received an email to freelance for a feature film for Nickelodeon.

"I was very afraid of not finding work and jumped into the first part-time job I could find. I was working at Starbucks the same time I was working with Nickelodeon."

After freelancing with the network, Boss took a risk and quit part time work to pursue more creative endeavors.

POETRY BOOK PUBLISHED BY KRISTINA RADER '06 ERNY

Alumna **Kristina Rader '06 Erny** recently published a book of poems with Solum Literary Press entitled "Elijah Fed by Ravens." In meditations set within imagery in 1 Kings, Erny deftly borrows the voices of long-dead prophets, widows, and ravens to explore her own contemporary faith-life, becoming the angel nudging herself forward. In this full-length poetry debut, Erny "questions whether sustenance will come in the desert places in her faith and what it might mean to journey forward anyway." The book is available through Bookshop and Barnes and Noble.



Kristina Rader '06 Erny published a book of poems entitled "Elijah Fed by Ravens."

ADOBE MANAGER WORKS AS ASBURY'S NEW ADJUNCT PROFESSOR



Asbury alumna Eliza Tan '20 returns as an adjunct professor to teach a photojournalism class

Asbury alumna, **Eliza Tan '20**, works as a Product Manager for Adobe, the global leader for digital media and digital marketing solutions, and recently returned to Asbury as an adjunct professor for photojournalism and interactive media classes. Teaching remotely from San Jose, Calif., Tan helps manage Product Ecosystem Strategy for Adobe Video Products while sharing her multimedia expertise with undergraduate students.

"Asbury has been a part of my ongoing narrative wherever I go," Tan said. "In a sense, I don't feel like I'm returning, but as if I never left. I feel very privileged and honored to come back as an adjunct professor."

ALUM SHOWCASES LOGO FOR LEXINGTON'S 250 ANNIVERSARY

Media Communication alumna **Savannah Riley '17 Guthrie** submitted a logo design which Lexington, Ky., Mayor Linda Gorton and members of the 250 Lex Commission selected to promote the celebration of the city of Lexington's 250th anniversary, coming in 2025.

Guthrie works as Senior Designer and Developer at Stratos Creative Marketing, with her favorite job being a mother to her two-year-old daughter, Miriam.

Learn more: lexingtonky.gov/250lex.



Savannah Riley '17 Guthrie is pictured with Lexington, Ky., Mayor Linda Gorton.

ASBURY SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARS WRITE BOOK FOR PRACTITIONERS

Dr. Ruby Owiny '96 co-authored a book (with Dr. Kyena Cornelius) about evidence-based instruction in special education with chapters from contributors **Dr. Allie Rhodes '97** and Dr. Victoria Slocum. Centered around the 22 High-Leverage Practices (HLPs) developed by the CEDDAR Center at the University of Florida and the Council for Exceptional Children, "The Practical Guide to High-Leverage Practices in Special Education: The Purposeful 'How' to Enhance Classroom Rigor" is available through Amazon.

"This book is important for practitioners, parents, and church workers to help ensure that students learn the content we're trying to teach them, whether it's from the state standards or biblical principles, in a public school, a private school, Sunday School, or youth group," said Owiny, who serves as Assistant Professor of Special Education at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

ASBURIANS CROSS THE 100-MILE FINISH LINE

Asbury graduate, **Jonathan Miller '19** ran the Tunnel Hill race, an incredible and challenging 100-mile, 24-hour trek, with Asbury friends to help him cross the finish line.

In college, Miller played soccer for TeamAU and made the all-state team but sought out challenges to test his athleticism.

"I did a 50-mile race my junior year with no training," said Miller. "After, I planned to do the 100-miler and asked my friends to run it with me one day."

Five years later, Miller's Asbury friends, **Joel Wafford '21** and **Hayden Dwyer '20**, would help him run the last 50 miles of Tunnel Hill in the freezing November nighttime temperatures. Running the wooded terrain with only a headlamp and a vest holding water, clothes, and caffeinated sports gels, Miller raced with Wafford or Dwyer waiting to reach the next aid station, a checkpoint signaling his closeness to the finish line.

After eating more than 15 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and 15 cheeseburgers while burning more than 10,000 calories and suffering from bleeding foot blisters and severe pain, Miller neared the end where his wife, **Cathryn Lien '18 Miller**, and mother, **Danielle Boisvert '93 Miller**, waited for him.

"By the end, I really started complaining a lot and asked both Joel and Hayden to finish with me. I had been wanting to do the 100-miler since being at Asbury with them in 2018," said Miller. "At one point I couldn't run in a straight line, and I just had to overcome it. I told my friends, 'You can't let me quit.'"

The three Asburians crossed the finish line of the Illinois Tunnel Hill race with Miller running 100 miles for 27 sleepless hours. Wafford and Dwyer ran more than 26 miles — a full marathon in and of itself.

"Finishing the Tunnel Hill 100 is the hardest thing I have ever done. It wouldn't have been possible without having Hayden and Joel run with me" said Miller. "Achieving my dream alongside two of my best friends was an unforgettable experience."



Jonathan Miller '19 crosses his 100-mile finish line with friends Joel Wafford '21 and Hayden Dwyer '20



STUDENTS EXPERIENCE FREEDOM IN SET APART WEEK

Asbury hosted Set Apart week, formerly known as Holiness Week, in January and invited Rev. Dr. Carolyn Moore and **Dr. Chris Bounds '88** to speak on walking in freedom with the Lord.

Moore led Monday and Wednesday Chapels along with guiding students in their faith walks during early-week evening services.

"The series is 'Freedom From, Freedom To' — freedom from fear, spiritual malaise, personal sin, anger, pessimism, whatever has them spiritually sick," said Moore. "As Paul tells the Galatians 'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.'" (Galatians 5:1)

Bounds continued the theme Thursday evening and Friday during Chapel. He focused on how Jesus gives us freedom from the guilt, power, and root of sin and how Jesus gives us freedom to love Him through broken chains.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE ON THE BELOVED CLASS AND THE FUTURE

Campus population has increased with an influx of traditional undergraduate (TUG) enrollment with the Beloved Class of 2027.

TO STAY UP TO DATE ON ASBURY, VISIT ASBURY.EDU/NEWS.

"God is blessing the work of Asbury University," stated Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing Jennifer McChord. "In the fall, we celebrated the largest incoming class in the last 25 years and over 20% growth in non-traditional programs. And, by all the accounts, the data points indicate that the Fall of 2024 class should be about the same size or larger."

Stewardship of funds that help create scholarships is critical to the continued momentum in enrollment along with the mentorship and intentional community building by Asbury faculty and staff.

"We are praising God for his abundance and faithfulness," McChord continued. "Please continue praying for our current students and our future student body." **3**

GLIDE-CRAWFORD CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Thousands of women have called Glide-Crawford (GC) Residence Hall home in the last century. It is rich in history, being re-constructed and open for residents in the fall of 1924 after being destroyed by a fire and has continued on as a uniquely beautiful living space on campus.

The dorm celebrated 100 years of hosting women on campus in early February, with the resident assistants (RAs) and Resident Director Laura Haugen throwing a birthday party to celebrate.

TOUR ASBURY ONLINE!

Asbury is proud to announce a new way for visitors to experience campus, whether you're an alum who wants to explore the new changes at Asbury or a high school student thinking about where to head to college — this tour is an in-depth, virtual tour of classroom buildings, men's and women's residence halls, dining facilities, and TeamAU's athletics center.

Share Asbury with your loved ones with guided walk-throughs and information while you get to know the campus culture and community, all from the vantage point of current students. **Visit asbury.edu/tour.**

Also, take advantage of **asbury.edu/refer** to help Asbury continue to grow!



3

GC's past and present RAs remarked on what their time in Glide-Crawford meant to them.

"My memories in Glide-Crawford are packed with special friends, laughter, tears, and moments I will always treasure," said RA alumna **Sandra Shirley '85**.

"Glide-Crawford is a very special place! The community that is formed here and the legacy that we have the opportunity to live into is such an honor. Glide-Crawford has been a home where women have experienced belonging and deep community for 100 years — what a testimony to God's faithfulness throughout generations," said Haugen.

"The community of GC is very intentional about dwelling together, and that reflects in how women love and care for each other here. There is a large amount of pride that comes from being a GC resident, and that is super special," said 3rd Glide RA **Olivia Parsons '25**.

Asbury's 2024 Reunion will host a celebration of Glide-Crawford among other recognitions and special events! **2**

THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRODUCES 'THE 39 STEPS'

From February 23-March 2, the Asbury University Theatre Program presented a marvelous fast-paced comedy which takes Hitchcock's 1935 hit spy movie and turns it on its ear. This faithful, but hilarious retelling by Patrick Barlow, featured Richard Hannay (Malachi Bullock), an

ordinary Brit whose chance encounter with a mysterious woman (**Jazmyn Lorentzen '27**), lands him in a world of international intrigue.

Comedic twists delighted the audience in the show full of theatrical delight as props and actors constantly transform to provide laughter and suspense until the climactic secret of 'the 39 steps' is revealed.

Director Carol Anderson says, "This show was a gift of laughter to our community providing a lift out of the winter doldrums. I love this cast and their commitment. Working with them has been a joy. Being at a university means it's also educational theatre, and everyone is learning on their feet and having a lot of fun." **1**

ASBURY SERVICE MOUNTS JOIN POLICE FORCES ACROSS THE U.S.

In April 2024, nine Asbury police horses trained by 14 Equine students will join mounted unit departments in Massachusetts, Tennessee, Georgia and Arizona.

"We really couldn't be more pleased and blessed with the leadership opportunity this provides for our students or the amazing, unequalled quality of horses that are being sent from Asbury University — across the United States — to serve alongside the brave men and women who protect us daily as part of mounted units," said Asbury Equine Director and Associate Professor **Harold Rainwater '69**.



Asbury President Dr. Kevin Brown and his wife Maria will serve with the Wesleyan Holiness Connection.

BROWNS WILL LEAD NEW WESLEYAN HOLINESS CONNECTION NETWORK

Asbury President Dr. Kevin Brown and his wife, Maria, will serve with the WHC College Presidents Network for the Wesleyan Holiness Connection (WHC). The new initiative, of which Dr. Brown will serve as director, comprises of leaders from Wesleyan and Pan-Wesleyan Christian institutions of higher education and aims to build stronger relationships and create synergies between visionary minds at the forefront of faith-based academia.

"I am eager to contribute to an ecosystem of collaboration and support among my peers," said Dr. Brown. "The opportunity to lead such a network is an honor and a commitment to strengthening our relationships and the collective impact of our institutions."

MUSIC STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL AND STATE AWARDS

Asbury University Music students recently received awards from the Kentucky chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS). Award recipients included **Grace Monsanto '24** (first place: Senior Classical), **Grace Chang '25** (second place: Junior Classical), and **Donovan Chung '26** (second place: Sophomore Classical) with semifinalists **Trueman Livingston '25** (Junior Musical Theatre) and **Gentry Osbourn '27** (Freshman Classical). The mission of NATS is "to advance excellence in singing through teaching, performance, scholarship, and research."

Music major **Levi Smith '25** recently won the Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) composition contest for his piece, *Rebirth*. Conducted by Dr. Johnie Dean Smith's piece performed at Whitney Hall (Kentucky Center for the Arts), as part of the All-State Collegiate Choir and All-State Collegiate Band Concert on Feb. 8.

ASBURY ESTABLISHES NURSING PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

This January, Asbury University and the University of Kentucky College of Nursing announced a dual enrollment. Students will complete both an Asbury bachelor's



degree and, after transferring to UK with preferred admission to UK College of Nursing, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in under five years, meeting a direct need for highly qualified nurses in the state of Kentucky and beyond. It includes the University of Kentucky College of Nursing Traditional and Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) tracks. Each academic year, the University of Kentucky will have allotted spaces for Asbury students to the BSN and the ABSN under this dual degree agreement.

Visit asbury.edu/nursing for more information.

COMMUNICATION RESEARCHERS WIN AWARD, PRESENT AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Katherine Sheets '21 (top) and Dr. Elizabeth Jones (bottom) co-authored a paper entitled, "Identifying Loss and Grief in Children's Animated Films."

Katherine Sheets '21 and communication professor Dr. Elizabeth Jones co-authored a paper entitled, "Identifying Loss and Grief in Children's Animated Films," which won a Top Paper Award from the Mass Communication Division of the National Communication Association. Sheets presented the paper in November at the National Communication Association conference in National Harbor, Md.

"In the study, we examined death and non-death related loss and grief expressions in children's animated films," Jones and Sheets said. "This mixed-methods content analysis of the 18 top-grossing films investigated two research questions:

1) How is loss portrayed in children's animated films across the U.S. animation industry? and 2) How are the five stages of grief depicted in children's animated films across the U.S. animation industry?"

COMMUNICATION ARTS ANNOUNCES NEW SPORT COMMUNICATION CONCENTRATION

The Asbury University School of Communication Arts is pleased to announce the new Sport Communication concentration within the Communication major. Designed to train communication experts in the sports industry by intertwining business and media with the opportunity for top internships, this 53-hour concentration launches in Fall 2024 and includes courses in sport marketing, public relations, broadcast news, and media performance.

"Everybody loves sports, and this degree is designed to open opportunities for students to work in the sports industry, having honed their communication skills," said Associate Professor of Communication Dr. Jim Shores. "Whether you're a sport communication director, content creator, marketing specialist, or social media manager, you will be well prepared for success."

Asbury has students who have interned and worked in the sports and athletics industry with organizations like ESPN, SEC, NASCAR, the PGA Tour, the Cincinnati Reds, NFL Films, Cincinnati Bengals, and Tennessee Titans.

Visit asbury.edu/mediacomm for more information.



The new Sport Communication concentration intertwines business and media to provide expertise in sports professions.

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES MINORS IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING STUDIES AND PRE-LAW

In Fall 2024, the Asbury University Social Science & History Department will launch two new minors in Pre-Law and Human Trafficking Studies and a reconfigured Political Science major. These three programs allow students to customize their major and minor based on their interests with electives in various areas including business, equine, computer science, and more.

"We teach students to apply what they learn about politics—about the way the world works—to organizations of all sorts, and thus we have graduates with careers in fields such as banking, non-profit management, and finance, as well as law and government," said Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor of Political Science **Dr. Steve Clements '83**.

As part of the Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, Assistant Professor of Political Science & History Dr. Glenn Harden recently co-authored with Marissa Castellanos, MSW, the "2024 Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Data Report: A Comprehensive Report of Existing Multi-Disciplinary Data." Contributors included **Jezri Leong '24** and Alexis Daniel (Catholic Charities of Louisville).

Learn more about human trafficking prevention with Professor of Psychology Dr. Laura Dryjanska on the This Is Asbury podcast: asbury.edu/thisisasbury.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN PROFESSORS CREATE NEW DIGITAL BADGES FOR THE PUBLIC

Asbury University's Media Communication department unveiled a new way for learners of all ages in any location — not limited to Asbury students — to engage with cutting-edge curriculum in Instructional Design with digital badges and micro-credentialing.

The digital badge and micro-credential formats provide a path to gain non-credit bearing, workforce ready skills in a flexible online format in high demand fields.

The digital badges are \$125 each and take approximately three to five hours to complete. They are offered on a new, 'eAsbury' platform that offers asynchronous, skills-focused, online micro-courses perfect for learners who want to upskill in a specific competency or topic. All learning content is created by Asbury professors and passed through a rigorous quality assurance process for content and design to meet the high standards of the Asbury learning community that now spans from digital badges to undergraduate and graduate levels.

Learn more at asbury.edu/microcredentials.





STUDENT-ATHLETE PROFILE

Caleb Wallis

Asbury Men’s Basketball senior guard Caleb Wallis exemplifies the student-athlete vision for Asbury Athletics of serving, training, and competing. The business administration major from Jackson, Ohio, scored 764 points with 191 assists and 191 rebounds after transferring to Asbury in 2022. During his two seasons at AU, Wallis has been named Asbury Male Newcomer of the Year, 2x NCCAA First Team All-Region, and an NCCAA Scholar-Athlete.

Beyond his studies and activity on the court, Wallis is committed to pursuing a career in marketing consultations as well as photography and videography. He received first place in the Asbury Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition in the spring of 2023 after presenting the wedding photo/video business he runs with his wife Kayla, CKLoveStories.

The Ambassador editorial team spoke with the versatile Wallis, who has taken a leadership role in his senior season.

Q: Who are some of the coaches, faculty, and staff that have impacted you at AU?

A: Truly, everyone from admissions, professors, administration, and coaches have all impacted me in a way that I will never forget. To name a few, I would like to thank Coach Shouse for allowing me the opportunity to play for his team. Playing basketball at AU has allowed me to experience all the other things AU has to offer. A big thank you to Coach Abner for spending countless hours on the phone with me during the recruiting process. He went above and beyond when trying to get me to Asbury, and even when I just needed a listening ear, Coach Abner was always there. I would also like to thank the rest of the men’s basketball staff for all they have done for me in my time here. And a big shoutout to Lindsay Allen. Although she is not a current Asbury employee, Lindsay played a big part in getting my transfer credits situated. She and the rest of registrar team put together an amazing plan to help me graduate in four years even as a transfer student! Asbury is a community of staff and faculty who follow the example Jesus set in His life.

AU is a group of people who live a life to serve others, not to be served.

Q: How have you grown spiritually during your time at Asbury?

A: Getting to experience the Outpouring firsthand was truly a blessing. The biggest thing I learned spiritually through that experience was the importance for us, as Christians, to elevate those far away from Christ in a position to see God clearly. God gave me the story of Zacchaeus during that time. We are in a world that is desperate for a glimpse of Jesus. We as Christians should be the tree that elevates the world in a position to where they can see His presence clearly. Through Outpouring and Chapel experience at AU, I have experienced great spiritual growth.

Q: What life lessons have you learned from managing the demands of being a student-athlete?

A: I think one of the biggest things I have learned about being a student-athlete is the importance of time management. At the start of every week, I organize everything I have — practices, classes, etc., helps me prepare for the week and allocate time to my homework and studies.

Q: How has God used basketball in your life?

A: God has used basketball to bring so many amazing relationships into my life. I can’t tell you how many connections I have built because of the game of basketball. Alongside relationships, basketball has also taught me so many lessons about life, leadership, hard work, and faith.

Q: What advice would you give to new student-athletes coming to Asbury?

A: “Your sport is something you get to do; it is not who you are. Build your identity on who Christ says you are.”



Chad Mayes collected his 100th career win on Jan. 31

MAYES EARNS 100TH CAREER WIN

Asbury women's basketball Head Coach Chad Mayes collected his 100th career win at AU on Jan. 31, 2024, with a 71-54 victory over Alice Lloyd College. The Eagles, led by senior Trinity Shearer's 12.9 points per game, finished the season with a 19-10 record and the program's third-consecutive appearance in the National Christian College Athletics Association (NCCAA) championship tournament. Coach Mayes is now 104-64 (.619) since being named head coach in 2018, going 58-28 (.674) in the last three seasons.

TRACK AND FIELD OFFICIALLY RETURNS TO ASBURY



Asbury's men's and women's track and field teams broke multiple school records at the NCCAA Indoor National Championships.

Asbury University men's and women's track and field officially returned to competition in January, led by head coach O'Brian Bridges. The special opening day featured three Asbury first place finishes against Capital University, Mount Vernon Nazarene, and Ohio Dominican.

JoJo Ernst '27 won the 1,000-meter run and **Bailey Gassmann '27** finished first in the mile and 1,000-meter events.

Asbury also competed in the NCCAA Indoor National Championships Feb. 9-10. The Eagles broke multiple school records in the meet, including senior **Wes Preston's** 3,000-meter record time (9:14.59) that was previously held by the late **Justin Spoon '21**.

"It has been a blessing and honor to be a part of bringing track and field back to Asbury," said Bridges. "A lot of preparation has gone into where we are today, I am so grateful to be a part of history here at AU!"

TEMAU EARNS 3.36 OVERALL SEMESTER GPA

Asbury Athletics celebrated an overall department fall 2023 semester GPA of 3.36, with 167 TeamAU student-athletes earning scholar-athlete honors with a 3.5 or above GPA. An impressive 190 student-athletes earned TeamAU Honor Roll status with a GPA of 3.25 or above.

ASBURY SWIMMING NAMED SCHOLAR-AMERICA TEAMS

Asbury's men's and women's swimming teams were both named Scholar-American Teams for the 2023 fall semester by the College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA). The women's team earned an impressive 3.57 team GPA while the men's team posted a 3.06.



Emme Johnson '26 took two first place finishes in the 50-backstroke and 100-backstroke

On Jan. 20, AU women's swimming earned its fifth win of the season, led by **Emme Johnson '26** taking two first-place finishes in the 50 backstroke (29:52) and 100-meter backstroke (1:04.66). Senior **Ian Wang** earned two wins for the men's team in the 100-meter breaststroke (1:01.48) and 100 individual medley (55:05).

HOW TO FOLLOW ASBURY ATHLETICS

- ▶ Follow #TeamAU @asburyeagles on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook, or at asburyeagles.com
- ▶ Watch TeamAU home games live on asburysportsdigitalnetwork.com



A Focus on Gratitude

Asbury Hosts Second Annual AsburyGives

During AsburyGives on March 21 and 22, 2024, Asbury students, faculty and staff took time to write hundreds of "thank you" notes to the generous supporters who give of their resources, time and prayer in support of the school and its people.

The community collaborated with alumni, parents and friends to advance the University's mission during this special day of gratitude and giving.

AsburyGives is a 24-hour initiative that encourages prayer support as well as financial investment in the next generation's education and spiritual formation by selecting from the categories at right to give.

“Our giving day is designed to invite all Asburians to give of their time, talents, and treasure to students, everyone is invited to participate. It doesn't matter how much or how little is given.”

ANNETTE HILL
DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING

“Each donation creates an enormous impact and life-changing opportunities for our current and future students,” continued Hill. “When our community of Asburians come together to give, it is amazing to see what God does.”



Scholarships



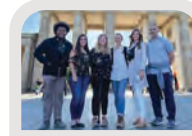
Academic Programs



Set Apart Retreats



Intercultural Life



Cross Cultural Experiences



Outdoor Venue Project



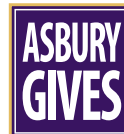
Reunion Gift/Residence Hall



TeamAU Athletics



Other Opportunities



Miss AsburyGives?

You can still make a gift online at asbury.edu/give or by calling (859) 858-5136.



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Giving as an Honor



Trisha Fehler Hintz '90 and Greg Hintz '90

The Hintz couple shares the impact of their Asbury experiences, leading them to fund opportunities for students and encourage future donors financially.

Greg Hintz '90 and **Trisha Fehler '90 Hintz** chose Asbury by very different paths.

Greg came from a long lineage of Asburians and lived around the Louisville area, which meant familiarity. "My earliest

memories were of family coming to our house from Asbury on the weekends," said Greg. "I've always had this tie to the University."

Whereas Trisha had never heard of Asbury until her senior year when a pastor took her to visit campus and encouraged her to apply.

"I wasn't planning on going to college, but I loved it," said Trisha. "My home life was very chaotic, so I saw Asbury as a sweet, sanctuary place to grow up for another four years."

A powerfully decisive moment for Trisha was an awards night of her senior year of high school. Simply showing up to support her friends, she was surprised by Asbury's Dean of Students and was personally gifted the Presidential Scholarship of \$1,000 to come to Asbury, which she says sealed the deal for her.

Greg and Trisha met at a freshmen orientation service and started dating two months later. While studying education at Asbury, Trisha served as a resident assistant (RA) of Glide-Crawford. At the same time, Greg double majored in accounting and business management, played tennis and class ball (the Asbury version of intercollegiate basketball), and was a Johnson West (1st floor) RA. They became engaged before their senior year and graduated with the Commanders, Asbury's 100th graduating class.

"It's our little bragging right to be a part of the 100th class," beamed Trisha.

The Hintz couple stayed connected with Asbury in many ways — attending Reunions, visiting campus to see their son, **Wade Hintz '20**, spending time with friends in Wilmore — but the most significant connection point is through the professional sphere.

Working for a big four accounting firm and then transitioning to a top 10 accounting firm, Crowe LLP, Greg loves to keep contact with Asbury professors and hire students into his firm.

"I'm so proud of the Asbury accounting students," said Greg. "They have a willingness to work and are above everybody else in maturity, capability, and value systems. Asbury is one of the places we want to hire from because we've had such success."

The couple started their giving journey with Greg's leadership on the 2016-2019 subcommittee for naming the Walt and Rowena Shaw Collaborative Learning Center (Shaw CLC) atrium in honor of former Asbury professor **Don Winslow '65**, a founding faculty member in Asbury's Business Department.

"I can't even begin to describe how influential Don was in every facet of our lives," Greg said, discussing his work in the subcommittee to honor Winslow. "To me, that's one of the beautiful things about Asbury, how professors pour into students unlike anywhere else. Don would have all of us accounting kids over at his house and prep us for interviews."

They continued their generous giving toward the atrium over a five-year pledge. The couple recently pledged a generous donation for the Outdoor Venue, a multi-functional, first-rate facility that will serve to help athletes train and compete at a high level, and also as a venue for sponsoring concerts, worship nights, and facilitating a range of events through which Asbury shares Christ's love with students, alumni, faculty and staff, friends and families, and the wider community.

Today, Greg still works as a CPA and is looking forward to retirement. The Hintzes are enjoying a new phase of life with their three adult children, Wade, Evan, and Bethany. They invest intentional time in service to Fisherville Baptist Church and spend the rest of their day with their beautiful Great Dane, Sasha.



Trisha with their beloved Great Dane, Sasha

"Asbury is part of our heart, and we believe in it," said Trisha. "We just want it to grow and be as impactful as possible for the Lord, the world, and the students there."

"As I think about Asbury, what's big on my heart is to create another generation of generous givers," said Greg, "who, with hearts of God's direction, try to exponentially grow donors who give to people in need and keep Asbury improving."



Walking This Path with Us

Lately I've been reading two books that have mentioned "the way" or "the path."

Asbury 1907 alum, E. Stanley Jones, (the only alum nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize twice!) wrote a daily devotional called "The Way," where he talks about how we are making daily choices that are simply either within "God's way" of life or on a different path which he describes simply as "not the way."

Another book someone gave me recently is called "The Steward's Way" and reminds us that even David, who was described as a man after God's own heart, still prayed for guidance and asked God to "Teach me the way in which I should walk..." (Psalm 143:8).

As stewards of Asbury's important mission during this time period, it is sometimes daunting as a leadership team to determine "the right path" and "the way" we should go in a multiplicity of decisions regarding academics, planning and policy, cultural response, walking with students, fundraising, etc.

It is, however, incredibly humbling and reassuring to be reminded that this little institution in Wilmore is first being stewarded by God himself. God gives us the gift of thousands of prayer warriors, alums, and friends from all over the world who invest with their resources, time and talents

to walk beside us. They encourage us to maintain this vitally important mission as we challenge and support students in their growth and development into Christ-like leaders.

As we reflect on the abundance of new facilities and programs, higher enrollment, and increased spiritual temperature, we are simply honored and in awe of what God is doing. I want to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to so many of you who have joined us in these exciting days. (I didn't say "easy days," but they are worthwhile and exciting.) We are not only blessed by you, but desperately need your partnership in this journey as we continue to steward what God has before us.

Thank you for walking this path with us, and we look forward to many future years of faithful stewardship.



Dr. Mark Troyer
Vice President for Institutional
Advancement & Strategic Partnerships

Stewarding a Lasting Legacy with Kingdom Impact

As faithful stewards of God's resources, we can honor God through wise financial management while reflecting His compassionate generosity. Through good stewardship we can have significant Kingdom impact, both while we are living and after we step into eternity. Please prayerfully consider:

- Making a non-cash gift today of a vacation property, rental property, business interest or other asset. This could unlock significant tax benefits for you.
- Making an estate commitment. A bequest in your will or trust is one of the most popular and flexible ways to ensure a Kingdom legacy without impacting your current financial situation.

For more information, please call or email:
Randy Nelson, AVP for Lead and Planned Giving
plannedgiving@asbury.edu • (859) 858-5707



1960s

Elizabeth (Betty)

Burchfield '65 married John Corey on November 17, 2023. Betty's two sisters attended the ceremony, **Lois Burchfield '68 Bradway** and **Caroline Burchfield '69 Susan-Wolfrom**. The couple makes their home in Lima, Ohio.

David Hager '68 authored a book entitled, "Simmering Anger, Smoldering Rage" and co-authored, "On The Way: Ministering in the Moment" with his son Neal Hager. Both books are available on Amazon or from the publisher, Wipf and Stock. **6**

1970s

Ann Laird '77 Coker has published her first book, "Journey with Bunyan's Pilgrim: A Companion Guide for The Pilgrim's Progress." Styled as a devotional, her book gives space for journaling through John Bunyan's class work. Available on Amazon. Her husband, former faculty member and Academic Dean, William B. Coker, has a podcast available based on his sermons titled, "Words of Endearment." **1**

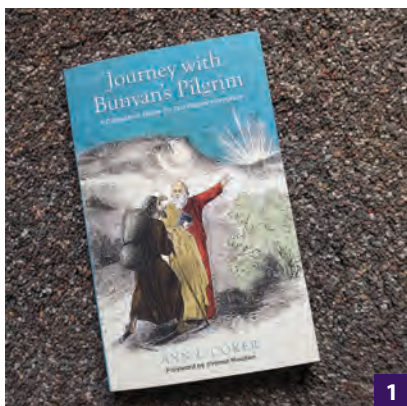
1980s

Mike Fletcher '80 authored the books, "CAT and PIG: A Story of Friendship", "CAT and PIG: Good News in the Barn", and "My Book of ABCs" along with his newest book, "CAT and PIG: The Apple Tree Adventure." He was a featured author for the Kirk Children's Book Festival in February 2024.

Donnie Fields '84 is now the Human Resources Manager at SEKRI, Inc.

1990s

Jennifer Raynor '94 Melton received her Doctor of Education in December



1



2



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4



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6



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8

2023. Her focus was Organizational Leadership and included a dissertation on the underrepresentation of married women in leadership positions.

2000s

Cassandra Argo '02 celebrated one year at the Perry County District Library serving as the Youth Services Assistant overseeing the Tween and Homeschool programs.

Ruth Garza '04 Hauck recently entered a short story contest for a "Christian Writers for Life" anthology about Experiencing God and has been chosen to be published. Her story is entitled, "Experiencing The God Who Guides" and reflects on Matthew 5:6.

Joseph Moore '05 was ordained as an elder in the Global Methodist Church in the Emerald Coast Conference in September 2023. **3**

James Donaldson '07 was promoted to Creative Director of W. Bradford, a Cincinnati marketing agency owned by **Will Sears '08**.

2010s

Mercy Cable '10 Cobb completed her Master of Arts: Human Service Counseling in Marriage and Family through Liberty University and was conferred in September 2023.

Caleb Griffin '14 received the Lone Star Region Sports Emmy for his work (editing and filming) on "The Pulse" at Texas A&M. **4**

Seamus and **Miriam Waslewski '14 Campion** are happy to announce the arrival of their three children Solana Diane (2020), Neil Rafa (2021) and Isabelle Marie (2023). Pictured above is Neil. Miriam and Seamus married in 2017 with **Kristin Knaption '14 Sharp** as a bridesmaid and they

happily celebrated Kristin's marriage to Jeremiah Sharp in November 2023. **7 8**

Joshua '17 and Carleen **Forringer** are proud to announce the arrival of Elliot Francis in December 2023. **2**

Derek '17 and Alexandra **Gaines** are happy to announce the arrival of their third child, Norah, in March 2023. Older siblings are Charlie and Caroline.

Michael and **Hannah Stafford '19 Goodwin** are proud to announce the arrival of Andrew Bruce (June 2022) and Lucy Jean (December 2023).

2020s

Fiona Morgan '20 is the new editor of the Danville Advocate-Messenger in Danville, Ky. **5**

Noah Clark '23 is a Producer at WTVQ- ABC 36 News in Lexington, Ky.



IN MEMORIAM

To report a listing for In Memoriam, please contact **Kim Spillman** in the Office of Advancement at **kimberly.spillman@asbury.edu** or (859) 858-5173.

Alumni

Mary Miyabe '46 Kajiwara, Education, 5/10/2023, Des Plaines, IL

Joy Woods '47 Iddings, Homemaker/Ministry, 9/14/2023, Mechanicsburg, PA

Frances Simpson '47 Stampfle-Snyder, Education/Music Ministry, 11/11/2023, Jupiter, FL

Freda Dayhoff '48 Carver, Missions, 10/16/2023, Colorado Springs, CO

Dorothy Lowe '49 Hochstetler, Music Education, 10/16/2023, Wooster, OH

Rev. Gordon Anderson '50, Education/Ministry/Missions, 1/29/2024, Asheville, NC

Janet Nestlerode '51 Koller, Food Service, 9/24/2023, Meadville, PA

Cynthiana "Cindy" Williamson '52, Ministry Administration, 1/30/2024, Crawfordsville, IN

Jeneve Hutcherson '53 Brooks, Ministry/Volunteer, 9/26/2023, Dothan, AL

Inez Gehrig '53 Bundy, Education, 12/21/2023, Pinehurst, NC

Marjorie Glick '53 Foster Schmeckebier, Education/Volunteer, 1/8/2024, Columbus, IN

Dr. Vinson "Vince" Sutlive Jr. '53, Education/Missions, 10/4/2023, Wilmore, KY

Faye Williams '54 Berkeley, Education/Ministry, 1/27/2024, Statesboro, GA

Lt. Col. Damon Rader '54, Missions/Salvation Army, 11/1/2023, Manheim, PA

Ruth Ann Lee '54 Thompson, Medical Technologist/Missions/Volunteer, 9/20/2023, Broken Arrow, OK

Milton "Mickey" Atkins III '55, Counselor/Salvation Army, 12/5/2023, Rockwall, TX

Dorothy Hoffman '55 Beighle, Education/Music Ministry, 9/24/2023, Crittenden, KY

Martha "Carolyn" Akers '55 Hunter, Ministry Administration, 12/19/2023, Cary, NC

Ann Heidt '55 King, Retail, 1/10/2022, Albany, GA

Dr. Lewis Thompson '55, Education/Surgeon/Volunteer, 6/15/2022, Broken Arrow, OK

Carolyn Houglin '56 Joiner, 10/16/2023, McMurray, PA

Grace "Polly" Luce '56 Lindsay, Ministry/Music Education, 11/15/2023, Freeport, FL

Joanna "Jody" Austin '56 Pauley, Christian Education Administrator, 1/19/2024, South Charleston, WV

Daniel Greer Sr. '57, Music Ministry, 1/19/2023, New Port Richey, FL

Rev. Robert Hankins '57, Ministry, 9/8/2023, Little Rock, AR

Barbara Murphy '57 Morris, Administrative Assistant/Homemaker/Ministry, 9/24/2023, Marietta, GA

Joseph "J.R." Rohrer '57, Business Owner/Insurance/Volunteer, 5/30/2023, Elkhart, IN

Elisabeth Johnson '57 Thomas, Education, 1/22/2024, Florence, AL

Donald Brown '58, Family Therapist/Ministry, 8/27/2023, Gulf Breeze, FL

Cdr. Otis "Hank" Fendt Jr. '58, Retired U.S. Navy Commander, 9/18/2023, Pensacola, FL

Maj. Charles Somers Jr. '58, Military/Veteran, 12/7/2023, Hayden, ID

Douglas Vinzant Sr. '58, Correctional Officer/Education/Management/Ministry, 10/19/2023, Raymond, MS

Richard Anderson Sr. '59, Mechanical Engineer/Veteran, 11/3/2023, Fort Wayne, IN

Nora Kell '59 Huggins, Music Ministry, 9/16/2023, Wintersville, OH

Rev. Virgil "Jim" Kirkpatrick '59, Missions, 4/18/2023, Danville, IN

Dr. Bobby "Bob" Martin '59, Education/Education Administrator/Former Asbury Faculty/Ministry, 12/8/2023, Wilmore, KY

Marvin Anderson '60, Musician/Veteran, 11/12/2023, Vicksburg, MS

Rev. Donald Cavin '60, Ministry/Volunteer, 9/26/2023, Surfside Beach, SC

Rhea Jackson '60 Huey, Elementary Music Education/Piano Teacher, 7/26/2023, Avon Park, FL

Emily Colbath '61 Fitch, Business Owner, 1/6/2024, Wilmore, KY

Martha Colvin '61 Petrey Osborne, Education, 1/21/2023, Corbin, KY

Pensacola "Pency" Bailey '61 Young, Ministry, 12/16/2023, Russell, KY

Joyce Stahly '62 Bradley, Music Education/Music Ministry, 10/5/2023, Lawrenceville, GA

William Rebman '62, Contractor/Ministry/Veteran, 10/2/2023, Beardstown, IL

Joyce Gibson '63 Vitalis, Speech Therapist/Volunteer, 1/13/2024, Medford, NJ

Paul Geiger '64, Accounting/Business, 9/19/2023, Spring Arbor, MI

Barbara Hughes '64 Lingle, Education/Volunteer, 11/21/2023, Metropolis, IL

David Schroen '64, Ministry, 11/11/2023, Salisbury, MD

Elizabeth "Joy" Vincent '65 Balkcom, Education/Education Administrator, 1/13/2024, Collierville, TN

Ellamae Speakman '65 Haessig, Missions/Special Education, 9/29/2023, Syracuse, IN

Rev. William Heaton '65, Ministry/Veteran, 10/23/2023, McKeesport, PA

Shirley Shimmfessel '65 Wilson, Ministry/Real Estate/Volunteer, 10/8/2023, Cincinnati, OH

Beverly Ferris '68 Mills, Nursing, 11/22/2023, Hampton, SC

Marion "Beth" Stickleby '68 Schuelke, Nursing, 10/2/2023, Wheaton, IL

Bruce Scollard '68, Building Maintenance, 1/23/2023, Thornton, CO

Vivian Howard '69 Atkins, Education/Ministry Administration, 12/4/2023, Anderson, IN

Elaine Tomlin '69 Williams, Grant Writer/Public Service/Social Work, 10/8/2023, Indianapolis, IN

Rev. Roland "Len" Walker Jr. '71, Government - Elected Representative/Ministry, 11/30/2023, Thomson, GA

Rev. Paul Ballard Jr. '72, Ministry, 12/28/2023, Pageland, SC

Rev. Rex Jones '73, Ministry, 11/1/2023, Terre Haute, IN

Cathy Clayton '74 Mainardi, Medical Technologist, 11/1/2023, Northfield, NJ

Cheryl Doughton '75 Reynolds, Social Work, 1/29/2024, Marietta, GA

Dr. Darcy Turner '76, Artist/Education/Missions/Musician, 12/18/2023, Mount Vernon, OH

Marjorie "Marge" Schultz '77, Education, 10/26/2023, Campton, KY

Roger Hinkle '79, Computer Analyst, 9/17/2023, Social Circle, GA

Rev. Gregory McBride '80, Ministry, 11/5/2023, Tulsa, OK

Sean Wade '91, Counselor, 10/1/2023, Wilmore, KY

Heather Henry '95 Velazquez, School Nurse, 10/22/2023, Chicago, IL

Jennifer Cute '01 Evelyn, Equine/Homeschool Educator, 12/17/2023, Lexington, KY

Samuel "Sam" Leggett '01, Business Owner/Engineering, 9/17/2023, Ellisville, MS

Friends

Rev. Arden "A.C." Myers, 1/10/2024, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Rev. Robert Anderson Jr., Former Asbury Faculty, 12/3/2023, Ulysses, PA

Laverne Sorrells Baker, 1/6/2023, Carmichael, CA

Paul Beighle, 1/31/2022, Walton, KY

Willie "Bill" Bennett, 11/29/2023, Tucker, GA

Gary Britten, 11/5/2023, Wilmore, KY

Emily Carnes, 1/8/2024, Arlington, VA

Dr. Gertrude "Gert" Frishmuth, 11/6/2023, Albuquerque, NM

Wanda Selvia Froderman, 12/5/2023, Evansville, IN

Andrea Nordyke Gantz, 6/5/2023, Mt. Vernon, OH

Connie Stewart Hadley, 1/27/2024, Wilmore, KY

Roger Miller, 10/2/2023, Lexington, KY

Joyce Arnold Paris, 4/15/2023, Mount Vernon, IN

Rev. Norman Parsons, 9/30/2023, Waunakee, WI

Margaret Melvie Peterson, 9/9/2023, Titusville, FL

Rev. Donald Russell, 12/5/2023, Kalkaska, MI

Marilyn Wilcox Salsman, 10/23/2023, Lexington, KY

Ronald "Ron" Self, 9/30/2023, Auburn, AL

Marjorie King Smith, 9/24/2023, Farmville, VA

Rev. John Staggs, 1/19/2024, New Albany, MS

Anne Holbrook Thigpen, 1/2/2024, Marietta, GA

Lawson Thigpen, 1/18/2024, Marietta, GA

Phyllis Pensinger Vance, 10/11/2023, Kennesaw, GA

Lewis Vitalis, 12/18/2023, Medford, NJ

Rev. Dr. Donald Wildmon, 12/28/2023, Tupelo, MS

Rev. Vaughn White, 7/2/2023, Wadena, MN

Rev. George Wolffbrandt Sr., Former Asbury Staff, 1/8/2024, Danville, KY

Roger Woolums, 10/4/2023, Wilmore, KY

Rev. Floyd "Gene" Yelverton, 10/4/2023, Ellaville, GA

Photo Finish



STUDENTS EXPLORE NATURE AND BIBLICAL VALUES AT THE SET APART RETREAT OVER SPRING BREAK IN HAMPTON, TENN., MARCH 10-15, 2024.

The retreat model engages students in an off-campus experience with faculty, staff and peers to address important foundational faith questions in an enjoyable environment. The retreat aims to have a 1:7 student to faculty/staff ratio with some fun activities built in. Learn more at asbury.edu/setapart.

Schedule of Events

APRIL 12-13, 2024

*Media Communication and
Theatre Visit Weekend*

APRIL 27, 2024

Commencement

MAY 4, 2024

President's Brunch in Chicago

MAY 11, 2024

President's Brunch in Atlanta

MAY 31, 2024

Eagle Day

JUNE 7, 2024

Eagle Day

JUNE 21-23, 2024

Reunion

JUNE 28, 2024

Eagle Day

JULY 13, 2024

*Asbury Day at Indian Springs
Campmeeting*

JULY 26, 2024

*Asbury Day at Hollow Rock
Campmeeting*

For more information on these events or to register, visit asburycommunity.org/events
For campus visit events, glance at asbury.edu/visit



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2024 Reunion

JUNE 21-23!



Please join us for Reunion as we celebrate and recognize Asbury alumni and families are invited to join us for Reunion where we will celebrate our banner-year alumni from classes ending in 4s and 9s.

Special Events

Alumni Handbell and Jazz Ensemble Concert •
Hymn Sing • Class Gatherings • Fireworks •
Celebration of Glide-Crawford's 100th birthday



For more information and to register,
visit asbury.edu/reunion