Helping busy adults finish a college degree!

ACHIEVE PROGRAM

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TEAMING UP TO ATTAIN THEIR DEGREES
Rell and Kimberly Stanley

Rell and Kimberly Stanley of Richmond, Kentucky began the ACHIEVE Program together in the fall of 2007. Rell is pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in the Management & Ethics program and Kimberly is pursuing her degree in the Elementary Education program. When asked to reflect upon their experience together in the ACHIEVE Program, Rell and Kimberly said,

The Achieve program has been such a blessing! We have always wanted to complete our college education and through the ACHIEVE program we can now make that a reality. Having a teammate makes a ton of difference. We keep each other motivated and it helps to have someone you can lean on who is supportive and understanding.

Michael and Shannon Jones

Michael & Shannon Jones come to the Achieve Program from Lancaster, Kentucky. Shannon is completing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management & Ethics and is nearing her final semester at Asbury College. Michael entered the Achieve Program last month and is pursuing his degree in Elementary Education. Regarding their experience continuing their education together, Shannon explains,

I would have never made it this far continuing my education without the support of my husband, Michael. He has been so understanding in the fact that my schoolwork must get done even if something at home gets put on hold. Because I have been in the Achieve program for almost 1.5 yrs, I understand the need for him to study now. We completely support what God has led the other to do and that makes a huge difference. Even though we are in different programs, it’s almost like we have a classmate at home. He asks my opinion when he is confused and I do the same with him. Everyone here at Asbury has been so helpful and understanding. How nice for our children one day to know that Mom and Dad both attended a Christian school.
Welcome new ACHIEVE Cohorts

New student orientations were held on January 8, 2008 for new Elementary Education program students and on January 17, 2008 for incoming Management and Ethics folks. On March 10, 2008 new student orientation will occur for another incoming Elementary Education cohort.

Not counting the up and coming March Elementary Education cohort, there are currently 113 adults in the ACHIEVE Program. We’ve come a long way since the first cohort of 7 students enrolled just 2 years ago. We are progressing steadily toward President Gray’s goal of 250 ACHIEVE students by 2015. We invite all current students to spread the word to other adults who are looking for the opportunity to complete a college degree going to class just one night a week. If you know of church, business, or other organization groups that would like for the ACHIEVE program staff to come and give an information session, we would welcome the opportunity to do so. Just contact our office to make the arrangements.

CONGRATULATIONS MANAGEMENT & ETHICS COHORT A

The ACHIEVE staff visited Cohort A during their last night of the last major course on December 3, 2007. Along with President Gray, they congratulated students in the very first ACHIEVE cohort as they wrapped up their major. We are proud of you Cohort A!

GRADUATION 2008

ACHIEVE graduates mark your calendars for Sunday, May 11, 2008 for commencement and graduation. If you anticipate having all course work completed by the last of August, you should have filed an application to graduate with the Asbury College Registrar by January 31. This is required of every person who meets all graduation requirements and is eligible to receive a diploma. Further graduation information will be mailed to you by the Provost’s and Registrar’s offices.

Graduating and looking for the next step?

Many ACHIEVE students will consider a Master’s program upon graduation or at some point thereafter. Currently, Asbury College offers a Master’s degree in Special Education, Reading & Writing, English as a Second Language, and Secondary Alternative Certification. By Fall 2008, two new Master’s degrees will be offered: a Master’s in Educational Leadership and a Master’s in Social Work. Contact Dr. Bonnie Banker regarding the Master’s degree in Educational Leadership (Teacher as Leader and Principal’s certification), and for information about the Master’s degree in Social Work, contact Dr. William Descoteaux. These departments will be happy to help inform you about their programs and pray with you as you decide your next step in life.
The Faces of ACHIEVE

“A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I may think aloud.”
-Ralph Waldo Emerson
IF YOU NEED TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE

All students must submit a completed withdrawal form with the Registrar’s office in order to withdraw from a course.

A student who drops a course before the second class meeting will have the course cancelled and will not be charged for the course.

A student who drops a course after the second class meeting will be awarded a grade of “W” and will not receive a refund of tuition or fees.

Always check with the Financial Aid office before withdrawing from a course.

NEW ACHIEVE AGE REQUIREMENT

Since the ACHIEVE Program’s conception, one of the admissions requirements has been that students must be at least 25 years old to enter the program. Now, individuals who are 23 or 24 years old and have two years of full-time work experience can also apply for admission into the ACHIEVE Program. This change will help even more busy adults who need a convenient way to complete their college degrees.

ACHIEVE Program Looking Ahead to Florida

Work is underway for approval from our accrediting agency (SACS) and the Florida Department of Education to be able to offer the ACHIEVE Program in Orlando, Florida. We hope to be able to open our doors in sunny Orlando for the Leadership & Ministry and Management & Ethics majors by fall 2008. If approved, ACHIEVE will occupy available building space at the Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando. The ACHIEVE administrative offices and academic programs will remain at our current Asbury College site, with Orlando being a branch campus location for our adult degree completion program. Please pray that God will pave the way for the ACHIEVE Program in Florida for this fall.

For nearly ten years, Asbury’s campus has been a thriving component of our global community. Located just 15 minutes from the airport and downtown Orlando, Asbury’s campus draws in an increasingly diverse student body, as well as a variety of denominational and parachurch organizations. Learn more about this growing part of Asbury Theological Seminary; visit www.asburyseminary.edu.
Asbury College Appoints New Registrar

Bill Hall has been appointed as the new Registrar for Asbury College effective February 1. Bill has a Master’s degree in Leadership and is well qualified for his new duties as Asbury College Registrar. He is well acquainted with the college having served in the Information Services department for some time and is also an Asbury College graduate. Bill will be located in the Administration Building, Room 101, in the former office of Nancy Cantrell. (Nancy is now located in Room 105.) The position of Registrar includes overseeing record keeping for the academic curriculum, ensuring integrity of academic credits given and degrees earned, monitoring of curricular tracks and student progress toward degrees, provision of appropriate academic advising, directing evaluation of transfer credits, and administrative supervision, development, and direction for the Registrar’s office. Coming into the position with a strong technology background, two primary goals Bill indicates are to make more online services available for students, such as viewing grades online and being able to request transcripts online. Bill currently teaches in some of our online classes and is well acquainted with nontraditional students. Currently, he is working a graduated schedule in his new position and will assume full-time duties in May. We welcome Bill into his new role as Asbury College Registrar. If you need Bill’s assistance, he can be contacted at bill.hall@asbury.edu or at extension 2328.

Counting the days til Spring

Management and Ethics student, Ben Zambrano, has been working recently on a project in Canada. Ben is Project Leader for the Stamping Equipment Engineering Division of Toyota. Recently he sent us a picture from his Canadian work site after 12 inches of snow fell. We look forward to Ben’s return to his work in Kentucky and to the ACHIEVE Program.

Chapel at Asbury College

Chapel is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00am in Hughes Auditorium. For more information about the chapel schedule, go to www.asbury.edu/chapel. Students can also listen to chapel over the internet at www.wacw.com.

Having Trouble Accessing Your Email?

Before you take it out on your computer, try following these steps:
1) Type mail2.asbury.edu in your web browser and hit ENTER
2) You should now see the Microsoft Outlook Web Access Page
3) Enter your username firstname.lastname@asbury.edu
4) Enter your password
5) You should now have access to your email
6) If steps 1-5 don’t work, call the Helpdesk at ext. 2177
7) If steps 1-6 don’t work, call the ACHIEVE Office at ext. 2771
8) If steps 1-7 don’t work, now you can take it out on your computer.
In *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, Brennan Manning describes a ragamuffin as one who has truly discovered the good news of the gospel of grace. A ragamuffin is one who realizes that Jesus comes not for the super-spiritual, but for those who know that they don’t have it all together and who are not too proud to accept God’s unconditional love. In truth, we all carry the qualifications of a ragamuffin. Each of us bears the bumps and bruises of life’s messes, poor choices, and failed attempts to get it right. For Manning, what is so good about the good news of the gospel of grace is that, despite how broken and beat up we may be, God accepts us. There is nothing we can do to make God love us any more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us any less. For some strange and amazing reason, God simply loves us and accepts us. May we all continue to learn to accept our need for the love of this God who accepts us so freely.