A Legacy of Learning

Generation after generation, families continue to answer a calling to Asbury

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WALKING IN FAITH
A student’s inspiring path after life-changing accident

REUNION REVIEW
Awards, class photos and fond memories of paths taken

PLUS:
- Class Notes
- Campus News
- Student, Alumni & Donor Spotlights
- Behind the Scenes and much more

asbury.edu
AMBASSADOR MAGAZINE

01 President’s Message
President
Dr. Sandra C. Gray

02 Behind the Scenes
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Charlie Shepard ’99

04 Perspective
Director of Alumni Relations & Parent Program
Carolyn Ridley ’81

06 Student Spotlight
Director of Marketing & Communications
Brad Johnson

08 Supporting Students
Production Coordinator
Gabe Gibitz

10 A Legacy of Learning
Art Director
Kyle J. Schroeder

14 Reunion 2013
Staff Writer
Rebekah Daniel

Special: Class-Photo Insert
Graphic Designer
Brad Easley ’98

19 Walking in Faith
Other Contributors
Morgan Irish ’14
Holland Michael ’07
Margaret Torres
Brownrygg Woolls ’14
Danelle Alexis Photography
Matt Sawyer Photography

ASBURY UNIVERSITY is a private, independent, Christian, liberal arts institution, providing academic excellence in a context of spiritual vitality. This nationally recognized, non-denominational university offers programs in more than 50 majors of study and several graduate programs to a student body of approximately 1,700 students. Founded in 1890, the University’s globally aware heritage has produced more than 22,000 living alumni who live and serve in all 50 of the United States and more than 80 nations.

The mission of Asbury University, as a Christian Liberal Arts University in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition, is to equip men and women, through a commitment to academic excellence and spiritual vitality, for a lifetime of learning, leadership and service to the professions, society, the family and the Church, thereby preparing them to engage their cultures and advance the cause of Christ around the world.

VOLUME 40, NO. 2, SUMMER 2013 – Ambassador (USPS 356490) is published four times a year by Asbury University, Wilmore, Ky. It serves as a quarterly link between the University and its constituency and builds loyalty and awareness of Asbury University so that readers will joyfully and sacrificially commit to Asbury University’s vision and mission. If you are interested in making a bequest to Asbury University, use our full legal address: Asbury University, One Macklem Drive, Wilmore, KY 40390-1198. For specific information, call (800) 888-1818, x2104. Comments, alumni news and letters to the editor are welcome at the address below. Periodicals postage paid at Wilmore, Ky., and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send all address changes to the Ambassador, One Macklem Drive, Wilmore, KY 40390-1198. Web site: asbury.edu. E-mail: ambassador@asbury.edu.

Asbury University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national or ethnic origin, disability or religion in the admission of students and their access to educational programs and activities.
President’s Message:

Finding Our Home in Jesus

Have you ever been homesick? I know I have. In fact, I believe most people who have surrendered to the call of God on their lives have been stretched out of their comfort zone at some point. They might long to return to a time or place where they were known and loved, where they were confident of their place and purpose. For some of our students, Asbury University becomes that home, and we recently welcomed them back with open arms for Reunion 2013: Paths We’ve Taken.

Asbury’s mission, however, isn’t to create a place for students (or alumni) to dwell forever. We equip them to go out and walk faithfully down the paths on which God places them. Homesickness, even for Asbury, can be a profoundly helpful thing because it keeps the heart centered on Jesus, our true home.

Moses must have known what it was to be homesick — after all, he spent 40 years wandering, homeless, in the wilderness. Throughout his sojourn, he anticipated the Promised Land, the place he and his people would, at last, call “home.” But even the Promised Land was denied him, and he died within sight of his journey’s destination. I think it’s interesting, though, that when the Israelites did enter into their Promised Land, they did so under Joshua’s encouragement to “be strong and courageous. … For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9). Moses had taught Joshua that even though his “home” lay before him, the presence of the Lord was in their midst — and this was cause for hope and confidence.

Many years later, John the Baptist came declaring that the Kingdom of God was at hand. Once again, the Lord was in the midst of His people, this time in the person of Jesus Christ. Today, we journey spiritually much as the disciples did, seeking to know and experience Jesus, who is present in our midst. And we often feel as homesick as they must have felt. We are keenly aware of the “now and not yet” nature of our faith in God’s redemption of His creation. Jesus is the One who was, is, and is to come. He has gone ahead to prepare a place for us, and we find ourselves eagerly awaiting the day when we come “home.” The daily joy we experience through the Holy Spirit’s indwelling in our hearts is a delicious taste of the feast that will come.

“Asbury’s mission, however, isn’t to create a place for students (or alumni) to dwell forever. We equip them to go out and walk faithfully down the paths on which God places them.”

It is truly good news that as we walk the paths of our lives, He walks with us, leading us in the ways that reflect our heavenly citizenship. Our opportunities to impact the culture for His kingdom are growing. This fall Asbury introduces two new master’s degree programs, an MBA and a Master’s in communication. Then, in the Fall of 2014, men’s and women’s lacrosse programs begin. We are eagerly anticipating God’s life-giving movement in and through these initiatives.

We invite you, alumni and friends of Asbury University, to “come home” to campus as often as possible. And when you do, I hope you experience Him with a deep sense of renewal and commitment. May the One who is able to keep you from falling strengthen your feet for the journey.

Dr. Sandra C. Gray
President
In the world of fine art, metaphors abound. It is a world in which a painting is not merely pigment on canvas — it is a statement, a question, a challenge, a tribute. What you see is not always what you get.

It is fitting, then, that the Asbury University Art Annex operates in a similar way. The Annex is without pretense; it doesn’t hide the clay dust on the basement windows or paint that may have dripped on hardwood floors. But inside these unassuming walls, beauty is born, and as the Lord told the prophet Samuel, “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7). The Art Annex certainly has heart.

Art alumni have advanced from the Annex to prestigious graduate programs and fellowships. Students with other majors, who make up a significant portion of the Annex “family,” earn a greater awareness of the craft that contributes to their morning mug of coffee — life enriched in true liberal arts fashion.
The top floor of the Annex is divided into individual student studios, where recent expressions of creativity ranged from a slightly spartan workspace devoted to clean and elegant typography to a literally organic sculpture of tree branches. The rule is that when each student leaves for the summer, the studio must be clean and returned to “blank canvas” status for the next student.

On the ground floor, a sculpture studio is equipped with large worktables, audio/visual projection equipment and cabinets filled with all the expected tools — plus a few unexpected gadgets. The Annex is located at one of the busier intersections in town, and the pattern of foot and car traffic outside provides a connection to the everyday world that hums quietly in the background.

Did You Know?
Before Asbury converted the building into the Art Annex in the early 1970s, it served the community as a grocery store. Proprietor “Pop Johnson” kept a ready supply of candy, soft drinks and ice cream in a cooler for an important portion of his clientele: Asbury students.

One wall of the Art Annex basement features a large loading door with a sloping path to the street, utilized daily when the building was a grocery store. Today, the bottom floor of the Annex, where the limestone foundation is visible and the air retains a cool stillness, is home to Asbury’s pottery studio. Shelving units similar to baker’s racks hold student work on its way to or from the kilns.
When Paul Niswander ’01 was a student, he became a psychology major largely because of the example of Dr. Alan Moulton ’60. As Niswander says, the classes were tough, but by building relationships with students through dinners and Bible study in his home, Moulton modeled what a life of impact among college students could look like. Today, as resident director of Johnson Hall, Niswander has built his own vision of impact and transformation for hundreds of young men.

Q: How have your experiences when you were a student at Asbury impacted the way you interact with current students?
A: John Morley ’84 was my resident director when I was here, and he would call me ‘the lawyer’ because I would challenge the status quo a little bit. So as far as students who don’t buy into the rule side of Asbury, I can sit down with them and have a conversation about why things are the way they are. It’s important to communicate the values of the community and foundational life lessons that are taught through the community standards. It’s not just, ‘We want to control you while you’re here,’ but, ‘We want to teach you foundations for a better life.’

Q: What do you love the most about your job?
A: I love the relationships — to do discipleship and mentoring, lead small groups, come alongside students when they’re in crisis, which is more of the job than people realize. With students, a crisis could range from their dog they’ve had since they were 4-years-old has passed away, or their grandfather who raised them has passed away, or their parents are getting divorced, or they’re having suicidal thoughts, or learning that a friend of theirs...
who had an accident on campus isn’t coming home because he passed away. I had to do that this past fall.

I value those parts because of the true emotion and intimacy of those events. I’ve gotten to officiate weddings, baptize kids. I call it ‘life on life’ stuff. When you do life on life, the idea of not being transparent or vulnerable isn’t possible. I live with these guys; I see them at their most raw moments. That’s where the fun comes in, when you’re sharing life with them.

Q: What are some of the most challenging aspects of being an RD?
A: As an RD, you are instilling a set of values that come from a tradition that is fairly countercultural. I’ve had parents say to me, ‘Well, he should have just lied about it and he wouldn’t have gotten in trouble.’ Or, ‘He’s 21, why can’t he have a drink off campus?’ Or, ‘I haven’t had a curfew since I was 14, and now I need to be in by midnight? Why are you trying to control me?’ And the answer is, we’re not controlling you. We just need you to know that coming in late and making noise in other people’s space is not acceptable. You need to know how to respect your roommate. Some students come in with that foundation, but not all of them.

Another of the difficulties comes from people thinking that RDs have favorites because of the amount of time I may spend with a certain student. A lot of my closest relationships come from discipline scenarios and a conversation about following the rules that turns into a realization I really care about them. But I have 260 guys, and I can’t be best friends with everybody. There are times the ‘boss’ part of it trumps the ‘friend’ part of it.

Q: You got married this summer to Laurelee Veazey ’08. How will having a woman living in the building change things for you?
A: Boundaries will be different. For the first four-plus years I worked here, I never locked my door. Now, I make sure I lock the doors when I go to bed and I don’t unlock them until I get up. I’ve started telling my RAs to knock and just wait. I’ll be a little more aware of sounds and noises and people running around.

When I was a student, John Morley ‘84 was married to Zoe Bertrand ’86 Morley. I’ve seen it in action and how it can enhance things, when there’s an idea of respect for a woman in the building. It motivated me to behave well, knowing that Zoe was there. Other than that, it’s still the same apartment and the same things. She’s really excited about coming alongside me in the ministry. She sees value in what I do and thinks about how it can work together.
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Nadia Whelchel '13 learns the art of classroom management in the Middle East

It started with a minor showdown in a stuffy classroom in Morocco. About 10 minutes into her English lesson, Nadia Whelchel ’13 could see that things were not going well with the boys in the back of the classroom. What they didn’t know, however, was that she understood every joke they cracked. The daughter of an American father and Moroccan mother, Whelchel had grown up in Saudia Arabia and Dubai, benefitting from a multi-cultural and multi-linguistic household.

“The respect just wasn’t there,” she said. “They thought I was just another American coming here to change the world. When I explained that I could understand what they were saying, the respect skyrocketed.

“They immediately caught the difference between us, though,” she continued. “I spoke their language and I was half Moroccan, but I didn’t cover my head or use certain religious phrases they use.”

Whelchel, an education major, spent that summer in Morocco with an organization that works in partnership with the American consulate to help struggling teenagers finish their education. Throughout the summer, Whelchel would meet with the students every morning for English classes — a time for which her familiarity with the culture, respected linguistic abilities and teacher-preparation training had equipped her well. In the afternoons, she took Arabic classes and, after a few weeks, started meeting with some of the students in a local café to continue their conversations in a more informal environment. At the café, they explored topics in English slang, American culture and the distinctions between their faiths.

Opening Doors

Helping to fund Whelchel’s summer-long position was the Asbury Initiative Grant, a donor-funded program which has provided financial assistance for more than 140 student internships in international development. To find out more or help support the initiative, please visit asbury.edu/asbury-initiative or call (859) 858-3511, x2240.
“Out of those conversations, much was brought to the table that would not have been appropriate in the classroom,” Whelchel said. “Coming from a Muslim background gave me an understanding of their beliefs that was very helpful.”

The challenges of working cross-culturally were balanced by the friendship extended by the people she met, including the family with whom she lived. The homestay parents valued education, pushed their 7-year-old son to do well in school and cared for this young American in their midst in the way they knew best: food.

“They owned a little bakery shop, so they made me breakfast every morning,” Whelchel said. “I would play soccer with my little host brother and was so overwhelmed with love when I got there. There were so many things I had to trust God with in my journey that it’s easier to trust God now.”

The educational adventure that began with a showdown ended with dozens of young Moroccans holding a more solid grasp on English and a renewed vision of the future for Whelchel. In the spring of 2013, she completed her student teaching in the Republic of Korea and has committed to teaching elementary students at an international school in Kabul, Afghanistan, in the fall.

“There were so many things I had to trust God with in my journey that it's easier to trust God now.”

— Nadia Whelchel ’13
From its earliest days, Asbury University has been blessed by the generosity of people who have chosen to pass along a portion of God’s abundance in their lives.

Following are just three examples of the many ways in which friends of the University have helped Asbury fulfill its mission of impacting the world and advancing the Kingdom of God. Each method is different; each giver is deeply appreciated; every gift matters.

1. Monthly Giving

When Jane Sutlive ’56 graduated from Asbury, she carried with her a complete college experience, from friendships forged in the dorms and classrooms to a top-notch academic education in biology and chemistry. She began making monthly donations not long after graduation — a practice that continued even through service in the mission field and her career as a medical technologist.

“I appreciated everything at Asbury,” she said. “It was about the friendship, the education, the Christian experience. My parents had always given so much every month, and I just started doing the same thing.”

Now, more than 50 years later, her faithful commitment has enabled Asbury to provide the same spirit-infused education to thousands of additional graduates serving around the world.
2. Planned Giving

Asbury students preparing for vocations in education and ministry have long been blessed by the funding Karl ‘51 and Dottie Gee ‘51 Crowe provided toward scholarships in those fields. Karl, a Methodist minister, and Dottie, a teacher, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary at their 45th Reunion in 1996. While they were able to live on his salary, Dottie taught both out of a love for the profession and to enable the couple to support missions and other causes close to their hearts.

Thanks to a planned gift from their estate, their benevolence will extend far beyond their lifetimes to equip new generations of Asburians for world-changing impact.

3. Foundations

Determined to become a Methodist minister, Sollie Emmitt McCreless ‘29 was enrolled at Asbury when the Lord revealed quite clearly that his future lay elsewhere. Three years later he was confirmed in his life’s work: approaching the world of health and life insurance as if it were a ministry. Though there were challenges along the way, his company, American Security Life Insurance Company, succeeded. And as he said in his autobiography, “There has never been any doubt that it was His doing.”

Today, the Sollie Emmitt McCreless and Lilla Marr ‘29 McCreless Foundation continues to support the University that McCreless himself led as chairman of the Board of Trustees for 28 years. The support the McCreless’ showed through the years was instrumental in establishing the McCreless Fine Arts Center and continues to enable students to experience the direction of the Lord in their lives.

If you’re interested in discussing the best opportunity for you to support Asbury University, please contact the Development Office at development@asbury.edu or (800) 888-1818.
In many ways, Asbury University has been a family affair from the beginning. On a hot summer day in 1890, founder John Wesley Hughes stepped off the train in Wilmore, Ky. — with his wife, children and household goods — to build a four-room house to shelter his vision for a “distinctively religious school.” At the time, Wilmore lacked an elementary or secondary school, so siblings of all ages attended Asbury together, thankful that formal education had come within reach of farming families surrounding the tiny town.

The educational landscape of the region, state and indeed, the whole world, is dramatically different today. Financial aid and the Internet — just as two examples — have made it more feasible for prospective high-school students to realistically consider colleges in all corners of the United States. A path to specialized study around the world, in fact, can be charted with just a few clicks of the computer mouse. No doubt, today’s students have choices that would have astounded families 100 years ago.

Yet, even when presented with a multitude of programs and opportunities around the world, Asbury students continue to follow the footsteps, train tracks, tire treads and flight patterns of family — relationships founded in blood and affinity — back to the green shade and white columns of Wilmore.

Heeding the Call
For some families, the initial impetus to consider Asbury is distinctly divine. In 1974, Ken Banter ’79 was a high-school student in Indiana when a friend invited him to join a group that was visiting Asbury, which he had never heard of.
“I didn’t have anything to do, and it sounded like fun,” he said. “I stayed in Johnson main, went to Chapel and classes on Friday, and at the time, they had half-day Saturday classes. On the way back to Indiana in the car, God clearly spoke to me and said He wanted me at Asbury.”

Elsewhere in the state of Indiana, a professor from Asbury had spoken to a church congregation that happened to include the oldest brother of David Speakman ’69.

“My oldest brother felt God call him to attend Asbury, but my father was a little hesitant about sending my brother off to school,” David said. “My father was a farmer. He had just purchased a brand new rope to pull hay into the haymow. But the rope broke and my father fell out of the haymow. He says that while he was falling, he distinctly heard an audible voice that said to him, ‘Don’t interfere with my plans.’

“So no surprise, my brother went to Asbury. When my mom and dad went to visit him, they sat in on classes and were impressed with the prayer and Bible study before class. They came home and encouraged the rest of the family to attend, as well.”

New Brothers and Sisters
For Cheryl Barker ’88 Nesselroade, it all began with a yearbook.

“We were missionaries in Japan with World Gospel Mission,” she said. “I had older brothers, and my oldest brother returned to the States to attend Asbury. When he came home after his freshman year, he brought his yearbook and I remember pouring over that thing. I looked at every page. My mom had been to Asbury, and her parents had gone, so my siblings and I were third generation.

“My brother was a good letter writer and he kept us up to date, and that was when I decided I wanted to go. When I was a junior and senior, I didn’t really think about applying anywhere else.”

While family connections might put Asbury on a prospective student’s radar, enrolling is just the first step. Once on campus, students discover traditions such as class names, verses and hymns that are intentionally cultivated to deepen relationships. One of the more unique traditions practically guarantees that every graduating Asburian has at least one thing in common with each person who has attended since 1929: Chapel in Hughes Auditorium.

“We maintain in our mission statement that we’re an independent liberal arts institution in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition,” said Dr. Paul Rader ’56, former president of Asbury University and the first American to be elected General of The Salvation Army.

“We still stand for it on campus and articulate it, but doctrinal statements are less of a factor for families now than they used to be. Asbury is a fine school where you

Former Asbury President Dr. Paul Rader ’56 attended Reunion 2013 with his wife, Dr. Kay Fuller ’57 Rader. As did other Asbury grads J.P. Rader ’83, his wife Helen Rehner ’80 Rader and their daughter, Britney Rader ’13.
can get a quality education, and the values of academic excellence and spiritual vitality still resonate. Parents want a school that will nurture their children, and Asbury seems like a very good idea.

“Chapel still gives focus to that whole program,” he continued. “How many schools do you know of that require Chapel three times a week and have assigned seating? It’s one of the things the school digs in its heels and says, ‘It’s who we are, it’s how we do business.’”

Dr. Kay Fuller ’57 Rader, who served as World President of The Salvation Army’s Women’s Organizations, remembers chatting with a student from another Christian school who visited Asbury and attended a Chapel service.

“To see every student in Chapel singing, praying and worshipping together was a blessing to him,” she said. “It’s one of the things that helps create the family feeling, along with an emphasis on dorm life, the class name and song. In the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, they used to ask us what we did to get so many people back on campus for reunion, and it’s all of these things combined. You want to come back and see your Chapel seatmate or roommate.”

When Ric Speakman ’01 was a student, the atmosphere of faith shaped his education in ways he did not fully recognize until later. A doctor in the U.S. Air Force, he chose Asbury because he knew it would prepare him well for medical school, but the spiritual education he received prepared him for life.

“The spiritual preparation that you’re exposed to, even if you aren’t actively looking to minister, helps create a solid Christian theology,” he said. “My understanding of the Christian walk is far different than my peers without that experience. That’s not to say Asbury has the market on it, but even if I was not intentional about pursuing it, spiritual development did occur.”

By virtue of growing up around the children of his parents’ friends, many of whom also attended

Some Things Never Change...

“(Asbury’s) purpose is to send forth men and women of high education and with knowledge of the deeper things in spiritual life.”

“With a well-rounded course of instruction, Asbury’s sons and daughters go forth acceptable to any place or position.”

“Past! a fond farewell. Present! all hail. Future! we come forth to greet thee.”

— Text from the very first volume of the Asbury student yearbook, The Asburian
Asbury, James Banter ’13 was familiar with ways in which relationships at Asbury, founded on common experiences and shared values, blur the lines between friends and family.

“My freshman year, I formed friendships with a lot of different people,” he said. “Sophomore year is when I got deeper in my small group and got a core group of guys around me that were like brothers. As I went on, the friendships got tighter... You never lose the relationships you have with your class members.”

Coming Full Circle

In a world that feels woefully deficient in friendship, it would be tempting to view Asbury’s focus on rich relationships and enduring truth as an end worthy of pursuing on its own merits. But from the beginning, the mission has been to engage the culture and advance the cause of Christ around the world.

Today’s students, whether they initially come to the University through family influences or discover a new family here, are finding the relationships they make at Asbury teach them to love well in the world.

“This generation is a very service-oriented generation, but Asbury has always had a strong sense of service,” said J.P. Rader ’83, an assistant professor in the School of Education and head volleyball coach. “The beauty here is that the dollar sign does not drive us... My biggest pitch for coming here is not that we have a great Luce Center and wonderful Education program. It’s that you’re going to be surrounded by amazing people, you have professors that care about you, and the school really does believe in its cornerstones (Scripture, Mission, Stewardship, Holiness).

“Asbury helped shape my kids — Asbury graduates Kristina Rader (’06), Paul (’08) and Brittney (’13) — for sure. I would love to say that I shaped my kids, that my wife (Helen Rehner ’80 Rader) shaped my kids and God shaped my kids, but the reality is this: who they are around day to day in college is so important.

“Knowing the types of students and faculty, and what they are being exposed to at Asbury, that's what brings generation after generation back to this University.”

First Family of Asbury

Asburians of all ages know the name of the University’s founder John Wesley Hughes, but here are some things you may not have known about the first family of Asbury.

• John and his wife, Mary (Wallingford), had eight children. Three were baptized in college Chapel.

• John Wesley Hughes, Jr. — known by all as “Little John” around campus — passed away before when he was 3.

• Though other Hughes children attended the Asbury primary school, Mary Asbury Hughes was the only graduate of the college (1917). She married Donald P. Wilson... you guessed it... an Asbury grad.
Geographically speaking, there are only a few roads that lead to Asbury University’s campus in Wilmore, Ky. However, the testimonies of alumni who returned for Reunion 2013: Paths We’ve Taken indicate that once students leave Asbury, the paths available to them are limited only by their imagination and the will of God.

Vincent Rutherford ’48 returned to Wilmore for his 65th Reunion this year. His path after Asbury included 14 years in Pakistan, where he worked as a field treasurer with the Methodist Board of Missions. Even in Pakistan, though, it was not unusual to encounter other Asburians and feel a sense of common ground on foreign soil.

“The Asbury connection is a very real experience and part of my life,” he said. “Asbury University continues to have an influence all around the world.”

On Friday, alumni enjoyed a Chapel service featuring class hymns and remarks from Rev. Tom Atkins ’68, a United Methodist evangelist. The afternoon included opportunities to learn more about the Kirkland Complex renovations (see page 30 for details), an art exhibition, campus walking tours and a demonstration at Asbury’s Equine Center. Christian illusionist Harris III wrapped up the day with a presentation that used the “art” of misdirection and deceptive appearances to underscore a timeless message: abundant life comes not from possessions or the approval of others, but through a loving relationship with Jesus.

Above: Eden Quam helped Christian illusionist Harris III demonstrate principles of truth and deception. Below: Participants in the Choral Reunion sang before Sunday’s Memorial Observance and Worship Service.
Below: A Barbecue Bash on Friday and picnic on Saturday offered families a chance to enjoy Reasoner Green (and time with each other) in a relaxed, casual atmosphere.

Sunday morning, Hughes rang with music as a Choral Reunion Choir treated the congregation to a selection of songs that included “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.” A memorial observance was held in honor of Asburians who had passed away during the past year, and Rev. Keith Koteskey ’88 spoke on the hope and challenge of believing that God can truly do anything.

Saturday’s activities included a missions-oriented Chapel service at 10 a.m. in Hughes Auditorium with Sarah Leckie ’03, an alumna who has used her media production skills to share stories of God’s movement through mission work around the world. Class luncheons then gave alumni an opportunity to share old memories and make new ones in anticipation of a program on Saturday evening that celebrated the many paths Asburians have taken through the years. During the program, Asbury President Dr. Sandra C. Gray honored alumni for building a strong foundation to support a future-focused perspective.

“Growth is very much in our future,” she said. “We are moved and driven by the impact Asburians are making, and we want to help lead cultural shifts, not just respond to them.”

Alumni will have another opportunity to share memories during Homecoming 2013. Scheduled for Oct. 25-27, alumni, parents and families are welcomed back to Wilmore for a weekend of concerts and athletics, as well as Sibling Invasion (a chance for siblings of students to experience campus life). For more information, please visit: asbury.edu/alumni.
Family Photos

Photos by: Rebekah Daniel and Brownrygg Woolls ’14
Reunion 2013   | Highlights

Tim Philpot ‘73
Through the years, Tim Philpot ‘73 has been a lawyer, Kentucky state senator, president of the Christian Business Men’s Committee International and judge. The path to achieving these notable successes, however, has been pitted with enough failures and losses to give him the compassion and perspective to minister deeply to some of his favorite people: lawyers and golfers.

Following the example of his father, evangelist Ford Philpot ‘50, Tim was a golf enthusiast by the age of 12. After graduating from law school, he worked as a trial lawyer before serving two terms in the Kentucky State Senate. In 1996, the board of Christian Business Men's Committee International invited him to serve as its president and build relationships around the world. In 2004, Philpot was appointed Fayette County Family Court Judge.

“I go to work every day and feel like I’m in ministry as much as any preacher,” he said.

Philpot is a member of the board of directors of Fishhook International (formerly the Ford Philpot Evangelistic Association), which focuses on evangelism and discipleship in India.

Dr. Dennis Kinlaw ‘43
After completing his studies at Asbury in 1943, Dr. Dennis Kinlaw graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1946 and pursued further studies at Princeton Theological Seminary and University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He received an M.A. and Ph.D. from Brandeis University. His scholarship — Kinlaw has penned five books to date — has nurtured the faith of believers around the world, and in honor of his significant contribution to academia, Asbury formally dedicated the Dennis F. and Elsie B. Kinlaw Library in 2001.

In addition to his research, Kinlaw taught at Seoul Theological Seminary and Asbury Theological Seminary and spoke widely. However, it was through his two terms as president of Asbury University, 1968-81 and 1986-91, that he most profoundly shaped the institution and countless students who benefitted from his leadership.

In 2002, he published a book of devotionals titled “This Day with the Master,” and wrote the following:

“We must be careful that our business is to work with God, not for Him. He alone can save, but He has made human relationships in such a way that those who will surrender to Him become His instruments in the salvation of the world.”

In 1983, Kinlaw founded the Francis Asbury Society, an organization based in Wilmore, whose purpose is to promote the message of Scriptural holiness through evangelism, discipleship, missions outreach and publications. Kinlaw also served as chairman of the board of the mission organization OMS International.

Alumni who continue to make a lasting impact

The 2013 A Awards

A scholar.
A judge.
A missionary to Africa.
Two accomplished writers.
A world-renowned composer.
David Persons ’68

David Persons ’68 has been serving the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) with his wife, Lori, as a United Methodist missionary since 1979 — officially. Unofficially, the people and culture of Congo were embedded in his heart from his own childhood there with his missionary parents.

“My freshman year at the Fall Revival in Hughes, I went forward and felt God speaking to me, ‘I want you to go back to Africa and follow in your father’s footsteps,’” he said. “That’s been a cornerstone of the direction of my life.”

Persons earned a master’s in Biblical Studies from Asbury Seminary while Lori, who also grew up in Congo, worked as a nurse. The couple arrived in Mulungwishi in 1979 to teach at a Methodist seminary there. Since then, the school has expanded to become Kitanga Methodist University, an accredited institution with schools of education, psychology, information technology, a college of agriculture and a complete Congolese faculty.

“I don’t feel like I’ve done anything extraordinary,” Persons said. “God has done everything, and I’ve just hung onto His coattails.”

Gregg ’73 and Deborah Shaw ’73 Lewis

Gregg ’73 and Deborah Shaw ’73 Lewis didn’t meet until they attended Asbury, but they both knew the school well. Gregg grew up in Wilmore, the son of a seminary professor and alumna. Debi’s father attended Asbury later in life, and she was born while he was a student.

“Two or three years after Daddy graduated, my oldest siblings started at Asbury,” she said. “We moved from church to church as a pastor’s family in North Georgia, but all my life I’ve traveled those roads to Kentucky.”

Gregg has worked in the publishing industry for 40 years, 25 of which have been spent as a freelance author. Some of the titles to his credit include biographies of other Asbury alumni, such as Dr. David Stephens ’73 and Ernie Steury ’53. Debi is a professional storyteller and director of the Mother’s Morning Out program at their church in Rome, Ga. Gregg and Debi have co-authored several books together, as well.

“I get a lot of satisfaction out of helping people who have a story to share do it better than they would do it on their own,” Gregg said.

Young Alum Winner

Dr. Shawn Okpebholo ’03

It was the combination of a liberal arts curriculum, a healthy spiritual environment and nurturing faculty that led Dr. Shawn Okpebholo ’03 to Asbury.

“At Asbury, I got not only a strong liberal arts education, but also a strong Christian education,” said Okpebholo. “That strong foundation has helped me to succeed.”

Okpebholo received his B.A. in composition and music history from Asbury and his M.M. and D.M.A. in composition and theory from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati with additional study in film scoring at New York University. In 2010, Okpebholo joined the faculty of Wheaton College, Conservatory of Music as Assistant Professor of Composition and Music Theory.

Okpebholo’s compositions have been performed in most states in the United States, as well as Canada, Africa, Europe and Asia. He also has received numerous commissions from noted soloists, universities and organizations, including: the United States Air Force, the Ohio Music Education Association, the Shasta Symphony and the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.
Walking in Faith

Sophomore Courtney Baker begins a new path with God and classmates at her side.
arah Sterling ’15 stood beside the highway and watched as her friend and volleyball teammate, Courtney Baker ’16, was gently wheeled to the waiting ambulance. She and Courtney had both been driving along a highway to Elizabethtown, Ky., in their respective cars, returning home after the Fall 2012 semester at Asbury University. One minute, everything had been fine, and she was thinking of Christmas presents she needed to buy. The next minute, Courtney’s car behind her was tangled in a guardrail on the other side of the road, with Courtney trapped inside. Courtney had fallen asleep.

In Sarah’s words...

I remember Dec. 13, 2012 like it was yesterday. I looked in my rearview mirror and saw Courtney veer to the left rapidly. The car slipped down the median, spun around, went on the other side of traffic and hit the guardrail. I felt like my stomach was in my throat.

I pulled over and ran as fast as I could. She was in tears and said to me: “Sarah, please help me! Am I going to die? Am I going to go to heaven? Please pray for me to go to heaven, Sarah.”

I just held her face very tightly in my hands and we sat their crying and praying until the ambulance came and she was eventually airlifted to a hospital in Louisville. “You’re not going to die, Courtney. God is watching over you right now and He will be with you every step of the way. He has great plans for you.”

Seeking strength

Just one week later, Courtney began to walk a path she never anticipated, as it was decided her left lower leg would be amputated. That day, she contacted her friends to let them know her decision.

“Some of my first thoughts of the surgery were, ‘I’m never going to look or feel the same again,’ ‘I wonder if I will be able to play volleyball again?’” Courtney said. Volleyball had always been such an important part of her life and one of the reasons she chose Asbury.

She committed herself toward working hard in rehab, trusting in her therapists and medical team, but the winter and early spring of 2013 held some dark days for Courtney. Support from her family and friends was encouraging and helped her to trust in God’s plan to lead her through the experience to a place of renewed confidence and strength. Still, the months seemed to creep by as she struggled to re-learn simple movements and missed her classmates.

“I would say the hardest part is the adjustment,” she said. “It’s learning how to do everything you once knew — things that just came naturally — all over again, but in a different way. It can be very frustrating at times.”

In Sarah’s words...

Courtney texted me on Dec. 20 — right before Christmas — and simply said: “Sarah, I decided to amputate my leg.”

I was speechless. I remember praying and asking for help. I texted back: “Everything will be OK. Leave it in God’s hands. You will be pain free, and you will have an amazing future.”
One of the bright spots for Courtney throughout the spring was connecting with a non-profit organization in Nashville, Tenn., called Amputee Blade Runners. The organization raises funds to provide prosthetic running legs, which often are not covered by insurance.

With a new hydraulic-cushioned prosthetic foot, Courtney began making plans to rejoin the community that symbolized the fellowship, discipline and encouragement she associated with Asbury: the volleyball team.

Stepping forward ... together

When Asbury volleyball coach JP Rader got the call that Courtney had been airlifted to a medical center in Louisville, he was actually just a few blocks away at a volleyball match. Courtney’s high-school coach was there, as well; both were waiting at the hospital when the first surgeons’ reports became available. Amazingly, just one month later, Courtney returned to the Asbury campus on crutches for the volleyball team’s first winter meeting.

Since then, rehab has included some important milestones, such as an 11-minute mile run using her prosthetic blade and re-learning to balance and pivot. While questions remain about how, exactly, to fully regain her athletic abilities — How much conditioning can she do without injury? What lateral movements are possible? — her place on the team is assured.

“Her rehab trainer in Nashville asked me from the beginning if we were serious about her playing volleyball again, and I told him ‘I am,’” Rader said. “I want her to come back and have this. The story she told to the team in winter was so incredibly inspirational. She has a type of personality that is hugely lovable, and she will make the whole experience really special for everybody.”
To show their support, members of the volleyball team, classmates and dorm mates have organized a 5K benefit race in Courtney’s honor in October. It’s a gesture of solidarity and an embrace of her reality in which each step — both physical and metaphorical — is a step of faith that come what may, they will travel together.

In Sarah’s words...

When you first meet Courtney, right away you see a huge smile and that beach blonde hair. But when you get to know her, you see talent on the court, a crazy personality and the love that she has for Jesus. Strong, loud, outgoing, amazing... we all know we’re lucky to have her as a friend and teammate.

To show their support, members of the volleyball team, classmates and dorm mates have organized a 5K benefit race in Courtney’s honor in October. It’s a gesture of solidarity and an embrace of her reality in which each step — both physical and metaphorical — is a step of faith that come what may, they will travel together.

Authentic and Affirming

One community that Courtney has experienced in her recovery is a familiar aspect of the Asbury University student experience for almost all alumni, though few have encountered the same life-altering circumstances. Nearly 85 percent of Asbury’s students live on the Wilmore campus, where intentional efforts and programs combine with sheer proximity to cultivate authentic, affirming relationships.

Not only do students develop a community with each other — perhaps most visible in the strong class identity that is unique to Asbury — but faculty and staff members serve as mentors and companions, as well.

“To see the Asbury community being the body of Christ as people encounter times of trial,” said Dr. Doug Wilcoxson, vice president for student development. “The way this community loves one another is powerful, showing others the character of God. Students, coaches, faculty and staff were quick to encourage Courtney in her time of need. It has often been said that trials build character, but it also reveals character.”

“Courtney is a tenacious young woman who is showing great strength and courage in the midst of this circumstance,” Wilcoxson continued. “Her desire to encourage and bring joy to others she meets is a great example to us all.”

In Sarah’s words...

Though she’s still the same silly, fun girl we all knew before the accident, she has also seriously recommitted her life to God. Her relationship with God is stronger than it has ever been.

Courtney thinks of her accident as God’s plan and God wanting her to be an inspiration to others. She thanks God every single day for sticking by her side, and she promises to grow more in her faith each day.

As Courtney moves forward with plans to return for her sophomore year this Fall, she holds a radically altered perspective on life’s priorities. Over the next few years, the Asbury community that surrounds her will continue to be an encouragement as she pursues a new vision.

“This accident has been a huge eye-opener as to just how precious life is,” Courtney said. “You really never know when you’re going to take your last breath. I certainly never thought I’d be 18 and without a leg, but here I am. One of the biggest things I share with people now is to never to go a day without knowing God.”
“I have no idea what the future will bring — I’ve already had so many doors open. I just want to take every opportunity that is thrown my way. I trust everything will fall into place. After all, God has a plan.”

— Courtney Baker
Asbury alum Cherie Walters ’99 Lowe likes to say, there is no good time to decide to work your way out of $127,000 of debt — and with the birth of their second child approaching, the spring of 2008 looked like a really bad time for Cherie and her husband, Brian.

However, a project that felt like a leap of faith in the beginning has turned into a Web site, weekly television appearance, newspaper column and reorganized lifestyle that has impacted their lives deeply while ministering to others, as well.

“Two years prior to beginning our journey, my husband had read Dave Ramsey’s ‘Total Money Makeover’ and said he really liked the idea of getting out of debt,” Cherie said. “Now, I didn’t want to stay in debt forever, but I couldn’t catch the vision of it at first. But on April 2, 2008, we started. We had an extra $100 per month, and by our best estimates, it would take 15 years to be debt-free, and 7½ if we really hurried. But it actually took just under four.”

By viewing their home as a business and taking a closer look at streamlining process, reducing costs, planning ahead and exercising strong discipline over spending, Cherie began to increase the amount of money available each month to apply toward the debt. Somewhat counter intuitively, she let go of a part-time job to have more time managing their resources at home and launched the queenoffree.net Web site.

“We decided that the most powerful thing to do was to take the darkness and drag it into the light. When we did that, it lost all of its power over us.”

“It’s grown in ways that I never anticipated it would,” she said. “At first it was completely anonymous, but as the story grew — and as some of my money-saving ideas caught on — it launched us into a bit more of the limelight.

“Here was this area of our lives that could be considered great darkness — a cause of conflict, creating turmoil in our souls,” she continued. “We decided that the most powerful thing to do was to take the darkness and drag it into the light. When we did that, it lost all of its power over us.”

Since then, Cherie and Brian have begun speaking on financial topics at churches, libraries, Mothers of Preschoolers groups and others. Recently, Cherie has worked with Indiana state government leaders on financial literacy education, and she appears each Sunday morning on local television. The Web site Yahoo! picked up the story — bumping up the page views on her Web site significantly — and the “Wall Street Journal” mentioned the party they threw to celebrate being debt-free last spring.

“We long for people to know there is hope for their finances,” Cherie said. “Debt is something we don’t talk about a lot in the church because we feel like we should know better and have better control over this. So many people are glad we share our story because they know it’s not just them.”
Weaving a Spiritual Family

Many of the stories in the Bible are easy to love. There are stories of adventure, tragedy and surprise endings. God’s faithfulness is visible in these stories, and the lessons are clear. And then there are the genealogies. To be perfectly honest, I’m tempted to skip over them sometimes to get to the “good stuff.” However, all Scripture is God-breathed, and a closer look at the genealogies has reminded me of an important truth.

This truth is that relationships between individuals, families and communities are important to God. The God who Himself exists in relationship to the other members of the Trinity puts a premium on family in His Word. The stories of Abraham, David and others remind us that the bonds of family can weather victories and defeat, and endure through time and space.

Asbury is about family, too — and not just in the sense that attending Asbury is a wonderful family tradition for dozens of our students. I can personally testify to the guidance, instruction, attention and even affection I received here as the first member of my family to attend. Earlier this summer, at Reunion, I was a witness to the powerful atmosphere of family that Asbury carefully nurtures.

I believe one of the reasons God gave us the genealogies is so we could understand that through the centuries, Christ’s golden thread is woven through the tapestry of each family, each tribe, each nation — and at Asbury, each class. Thank you for being a part of that family with me.

Charlie Shepard ’99
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

1,325: A Gift for Every Student

In this 2013-14 academic year, Asbury University is presenting alumni, parents and friends of the University with a bold opportunity to directly impact current students in an unprecedented way. Beginning in August, every dollar donated to the Fund for Asbury University will be designated for student scholarships.

The “1,325: A Gift for Every Student” initiative provides donors the opportunity to make a gift directly to student scholarships (which will continue to be distributed to the young men and women who apply and are selected for awarded or need-based tuition assistance).

The goal is for at least 1,325 alumni, parents and friends of Asbury (matching the number of undergraduate students enrolled at Asbury in 2012-13) to make a gift above their previous year’s gift.

The “1,325: A Gift for Every Student” initiative can put academic excellence and spiritual vitality within reach of even more young people. Will you help us?

To make a lasting difference in a student’s life, call Damon Mazza at (859) 858-3511, x2133, or visit asbury.edu/giving.

THE FUND FOR
ASBURY UNIVERSITY
Robert E. Riel ’49, retired elementary principal, and his son David R. Riel ’75, a professor at Asbury, were part of an Honor Flight where WWII veterans are flown to Washington, D.C. to visit the war memorials.

Rebecca Grooms ’74 Johnson, Ph.D., Affiliate Professor of Music at Ohio Christian University, was recently elected president-elect of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) National Board of Directors. Founded in 1876, this pre-eminent organization of private and university piano, instrumental, and vocal teachers has approximately 22,000 members with affiliates in all 50 states.

Redonia McKnight Thomas ’74 graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Gammon Theological Seminary at ITC in Atlanta, Ga. She has been appointed to the United Methodist Churches of Bethel, Mt. Zion and Wesley in Cheraw, S.C.

B. Gordon Carnes M.D. ’77, who has been serving as a Flight Surgeon in the Army Reserves Medical Corps, has been promoted to the rank of colonel. He has left his private practice in family medicine and now serves as an Army Civilian Flight Surgeon at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Dr. Paul Garverick ’86 successfully defended his dissertation on the topic of “How Volunteers Experience Ministry Satisfaction in the Context of a Local Church and Its Organizational Leadership: A Case Study” at Indiana Wesleyan University. He graduated in April 2013 with an Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership.

Jim Jones ’88 won the 2012-13 Educator of the Year Award at Tokay High School in Lodi, Calif.

Scott Hohn ’90 completed his Doctor of Ministry in December, 2012 at Beeson Divinity School. He now serves as pastor of 1st United Methodist Church of Eufaula, Ala.

Holly Sheilley ’94 is Athletics Director at Transylvania University in Lexington, Ky.


LeAnna Wilson ’96 won the BESSIE Award for the 2013 Best Education Software for an e-learning course entitled “Experiencing Music” that she wrote for Juilliard School of Music. She currently teaches Juilliard’s e-learning courses through Connections Education.

Brian Hurley ’97 married Kelley Douberley on March 17, 2012. Brian was also ordained a Deacon in Full Connection in the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in June 2012. He currently serves in Extension Ministry as Hospital Chaplain at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in Lakeland, Fla.

David ’97 and Stephanie Gates ’95 Smyth announce the arrival of Michael David, born on March 29 in Lexington, Ky. Michael joins his older brothers Gates and Ridley.

B. Gordon Carnes M.D. ’77, who has been serving as a Flight Surgeon in the Army Reserves Medical Corps, has been promoted to the rank of colonel. He has left his private practice in family medicine and now serves as an Army Civilian Flight Surgeon at Fort Rucker, Ala.


LeAnna Wilson ’96 won the BESSIE Award for the 2013 Best Education Software for an e-learning course entitled “Experiencing Music” that she wrote for Juilliard School of Music. She currently teaches Juilliard’s e-learning courses through Connections Education.

Brian Hurley ’97 married Kelley Douberley on March 17, 2012. Brian was also ordained a Deacon in Full Connection in the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in June 2012. He currently serves in Extension Ministry as Hospital Chaplain at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in Lakeland, Fla.

David ’97 and Stephanie Gates ’95 Smyth announce the arrival of Michael David, born on March 29 in Lexington, Ky. Michael joins his older brothers Gates and Ridley.


Wendy Kappeler ’00 Coy and husband Kevin announce the birth of their daughter Kaitlyn Sally on May 21, 2012 in Youngstown, Ohio. Kaitlyn joins her big brother Ryan.

Miriam Slagle ’01 married Ian Swanson on Oct. 8, 2011 in Fort

Ashley Hulbert ’03 Brockinton partnered with a makeup artist and created an iPhone App that was featured on the “Today Show” and listed as #1 in paid Lifestyle Apps in Apple stores.

Joe ’02 and Mandy Godwin ’02 Tucker announce the birth of their daughter Reagan Marie on Feb. 26, 2013 in Fairfax, Va.

Joel Foster ’03 married Maggie Castillo on March 9, 2013 in Georgia.

Sarah Kilty ’03 Houser married Adam Houser on July 14, 2012 in Wilmore, and they are currently living in Wilkesboro, N.C.

Mark and Lori Baker ’03 Jones announce the arrival of Jude Isaac on March 28, 2013.

Kristi Bevins ’02 Lu and her husband Jack welcome the arrival of their son, Jack “Christopher” Lu, on Dec. 10, 2012. The Lu family resides in Frederick, Md.

Mark Siverling ’03 and his wife Candice adopted Guy Charles (3 years old) and Isabel Lynn (6 years old). They join the family’s first child, Ella Grace (18 months).

Kristin Richards ’05 completed her MFA at Yale, a top-five MFA program in the country, and was accepted into a residency program at the Vermont Studio Center — the largest international artists’ and writers’ residency program in the United States.

Matthew and Sarah Pierson ’06 Ellis welcomed Susanna Joy to their family on March 9, 2013. She joins older siblings Ivy and Eagan. The Ellis family moved to Middletown, Ohio, in November 2012.

Travis Shaffer ’06 earned a tenure position teaching photography at the University of Missouri starting this fall.

David ’07 and Laura Hogue ’09 Williams proudly announce the birth of Elizabeth Jeanelle, born on May 15, 2013.
Lucas ’06 and Kari Kuhn ’06
Speakman announce the arrival of
Lucas Alexander on April 19, 2013.

Jeremy White ’06 and Lindsey
Heaston were married on June 8,
2013 in Wilmore, Ky.

Michael George ’07, Petty Officer
2nd Class in the U.S. Navy, was
named NAVSUP Fleet Logistics
Center Yokosuka Sailor of the Year.

Beth and Kyle ’07 Olney announce
the arrival of Autumn Marie on Dec.
21, 2012 in Bourbonnais, Ill. Her
proud grandparents are Kent ’77
and Beth Olsen ’77 Olney.

Shane Smith ’08 was accepted into
the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine
Art to study painting.

Brian ’09 and Mary Kate Healy ’11
Brown welcomed their first child,
Olivia Eleanor Brown, into the world
on July 5, 2012.

Will Sears ’09 has taken a position as
an Account Executive at TrendyMinds
— an advertising, public relations and
Web development firm in Indiana.

Emma Lorraine Swayne ’09
married Garland Montgomery
Butram on May 4, 2013 in
Montgomery, Ala.

Amanda Sims ’09 recently
moved to Japan. She serves as a
missionary and English teacher
near the city of Osaka.

Zach Whelchel ’13, Brian
Troyer ’13, Beth Crist ’13,
Megan Lewellen ’13, Heath
Crist ’13 and Randy Troyer
’13 graduated from Asbury
University this spring, having
graduated elementary school
(Wilmore Elementary), middle
school (West Jessamine Middle
School) and high school
(West Jessamine High School)
together, as well.
In Memoriam

Edith Lewis ’36 Caron, Social Work, 2/26/2013, Keene Valley, N.Y.


Charles Crouse ’40, Sales/Business Owner, 3/15/2013, Wilmore, Ky.


Dr. James Keith ’43, Ministry, 3/29/2013, Franklin, Ind.


Jane Curry ’45 Colaw, Ministry, 4/16/2013, Cincinnati, Ohio

Marjorie Mendenhall ’47 Hoffman, Missions/Journalism, 4/13/2013, Versailles, Ky.

Alice Sutton ’48 Berry, Education, 12/23/2012, Harrisburg, Ill.

Rev. Robert Linter ’48, Ministry, 12/3/2012, Lebanon, Ohio

Rev. John Dunham ’49, Ministry, 12/5/2012, Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. LTC Henry Pollock ’50, Ministry, 5/2/2013, Reidsville, N.C.

Orris Byrum ’51, 7/11/2012, Albertville, Ala.

Charles Adam ’52, Ministry/Purchasing Agent, 1/8/2013, Elkhart, Ind.


Lois Allison ’54 Shelton, Administration, 6/7/2013, Golden, Colo.


Buel Andrus ’56, Engineering, 4/16/2013, Somerset, Ky.


Dr. Sid Guillen ’56, Education, 2/24/2013, Anderson, Ind.

Dr. James Miller ’56, Ministry, 4/7/2013, Kingwood, Texas

Dr. Norman Cary ’58, Education, 4/11/2013, Dayton, Ohio

Virginia Lehr ’58 Vancil, Education, 2/12/2013, Utica, N.Y.

Carole Lewis ’59 Craig, Education/Musician, 4/22/2013, Belpre, Ohio

Ruby Delille ’59 Hickey, Real Estate, 11/11/2012, Sevierville, Tenn.

William Scott ’60, Law, 8/23/2012, Lewisville, Texas


Janet Blaufuss ’63, Nursing, 5/6/2013, Toledo, Ohio

Wanda Mounts ’65 Barbour, Rehabilitation/Carpenter, 2/21/2013, Middlesex, N.Y.


Rev. Harry Burton-Lewis ’66, Education/Missions, 1/30/2013, Asheville, N.C.

Gail Eisenlohr ’66, Education, 4/15/2013, Pittman, N.J.


Kay McMurry ’69, Business, 8/29/2012, Salvisa, Ky.

Dr. William Marrs ’70, Medicine, 4/9/2013, Glasgow, Ky.


Stuart Simmons ’71, Education/Engineering, 5/20/2013, Brookville, Ohio


Gwendolyn Howe ’75, Missions/Graphic Artist, 11/19/2012, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dr. Daniel Fleeman ’76, Medicine, 11/11/2012, Eastborough, Kan.

Harry Stoneking ’77, Ministry/Business, 3/14/2013, Altha, Fla.

Rachel Wilder ’90 Khan, Education, 3/24/2013, Tampa, Fla.

Michael Sparks ’92, Business/Finance, 3/24/2013, Mansfield, Ohio

Jennifer Oswald ’01, 12/19/2012, Lexington, Ky.

Bethany Hunter ’06 Hardman, Public Service/Caregiver, 5/9/2013, Wilmore, Ky.


friends


Dr. Frances Ewbank, 3/16/2013, West Lafayette, Ind.

Robert Hemme, 4/5/2013, Pensacola, Fla.

Sylvester Hentschel, 4/2/2013, Lakeland, Fla.

Donald Jacobsen, 3/31/2013, Wilmore, Ky.

Larry Kellett, 1/5/2013, Cordova, Tenn.

Noah Ripato, 8/10/2012, Maysville, Ky.

Mazel Stoneking, 6/7/2013, Nicholasville, Ky.
Equipping the Called
Asbury University and The Salvation Army strengthened a long-standing relationship in June by forming a partnership through which Salvation Army officers in the Eastern Territory can earn a bachelor of science in Ministry Management at Asbury. The new online program is designed for those who have already earned an associate’s degree through The Salvation Army’s College for Officer Training.

Wonderful Words

If We Build It...
Asbury’s own “field of dreams” is taking shape as construction on the new Kirkland Complex, a renovation of Asbury University’s baseball and softball facilities, has begun. Phases I and II of the project — at a cost of $1.6 million — include improvements for baseball and softball in areas such as: lighting; dugout upgrades; new fencing, backstop and warning tracks. Additional improvements for softball include bleacher and press box upgrades, and baseball will receive a laser-graded field with new sod, press box and stadium seating. Several naming-rights opportunities are available.

While the teams will benefit from new playing surfaces as soon as Spring 2014, the facilities will be used as a tool to transform lives for Christ through sports for years to come.

The complex is named in honor of Dr. Jiles E. Kirkland ’50, who served 46 years as a United Methodist pastor and as the district superintendent of the Sarasota (Fla.) district. To support the project, contact the Institutional Advancement office at (859) 858-3511, x2104, or visit asbury.edu/development/kirkland-complex.
When Students Call the Shots
The ninth-annual Highbridge Film Festival featured the many talents of Asbury students in all the expected places — as actors, directors, writers and film production crews — as well as the behind-the-scenes teams that pulled the event together. A special events class works to produce everything from promotional posters and event sponsors to reception decorations, earning academic credit along the way. Thirteen students films were judged by industry experts for awards in directing, editing, visual effects, musical score and other categories. The audience choice award was given to “Charged,” an animated super short film by Nathaniel Winckler ’14.

A ‘Novel’ Introduction
Beginning in August, incoming new students at Asbury will receive an expanded explanation of liberal arts education through the introduction of a new Liberal Arts Seminar. The seminar, titled “Engaging the Liberal Arts: Why Asking ‘Why’ Matters,” will feature facilitated small-group discussions preparing students for their course work and for reading Kazuo Ishiguro’s novel “The Remains of the Day.”

Making History
Asbury’s May 2013 Commencement weekend included two graduation ceremonies for the first time. In addition to the undergraduate commencement, an additional ceremony was added for graduate and degree-completion students. Between the two ceremonies, 255 students graduated.

Retreat to Better Advance
President Sandra Gray joined with Asbury faculty and staff to offer a weekend of worship and fellowship in the Los Angeles area to local alumni, many of whom work in entertainment-industry positions. The retreat is one of several ways the University seeks to foster among alumni a similar environment of rich relationships and intentional Christian practice as students experience during their years on campus. Helping set up and host the event were Brady ’93 and Andrea Gyertson ’95 Nasfell, film-industry professionals who were recipients of the Advancement Volunteers of the Year Award at Reunion 2013.

New Faces, Fond Farewells
Asbury University gratefully acknowledges the contributions and legacy of several retiring faculty members: Dr. Ike Adams (Social Work), Dr. Bea Holz (Music), Dr. Rebecca Oswald (Education), Dr. Shirley Pauler (Education), Dr. Paul Vincent (English) and Delmar Searls (Math). Between them, they represent more than 150 years of experience in the classroom. Also, Dr. William Hall ’91, former Registrar at Asbury, accepted the position.

Graduate-Level Growth
Asbury is pleased to announce two new master’s degree programs beginning in Fall 2013: a Master of Business Administration (pending SACS approval) and a Master of Arts in Communication: Digital Storytelling. The MBA is an online degree that combines spiritual vitality and an in-depth look at factors, such as social entrepreneurship, that are shaping a rapidly changing global business environment. The Master of Arts in Communication degree uses a blended format of online and on-campus classes to lead students into a deeper understanding of the role of narrative in culture — and how to create, produce, tell and interpret compelling stories. Visit asbury.edu/gps for more information.
of Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. Sheryl Voigts, who served as Registrar and Director of Enrolled Student Services at Asbury Theological Seminary (2005-13), is the University’s new Registrar.

**Camps Make an Impact**
This summer, Asbury’s ImpactU academic camps hit the ground running... and trotting, filming, acting, etc., as high-school students from across the country came to campus. Students engaged in different residential camps — equine, film, theater, worship arts/audio production and adventure leadership — that not only gave them a chance to grow in their area of interest but experience a college-type Christian community, as well. Be sure to watch for ImpactU camps in 2014 at asbury.edu/impactU.

**On the Road**
Asbury President Dr. Sandra Gray spent more than a week traveling throughout the Republic of Korea, deepening the relationship between Asbury and several churches, high schools, university and media outlets in major cities there. Her visit was hosted by Dr. Billy Kim, pastor emeritus of the 15,000-member Suwon Central Baptist Church and chair of the Far East Broadcasting Company. Also with Gray were J.B. ’55 and Bette Shipps ’53 Crouse, who spent decades working in Korea as missionaries.

**Vive L’Asbury!**
Asbury announced that beginning in Fall 2014, college students from around the world will be able to earn a semester of liberal-arts credit through a new Asbury semester abroad program in Paris. Visit asbury.edu/paris to find out more.

**Upcoming Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 12</td>
<td>New Student Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 19</td>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>Labor Day (holiday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9-13</td>
<td>Fall Revival: Dr. Bill &amp; Diane Ury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>Artist Series: Jim Jarrett, Actor, HU, 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Music Alumni Recital &amp; Reception, AK, 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 19-21</td>
<td>Equine Visit Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>Draft Horse Day: Equine Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>“C.S. Lewis: A Life Observed” with Dr. Devin Brown &amp; Douglas Gresham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Fall Ensemble Concert (Orchestra, Women’s Choir), HU, 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4-6</td>
<td>Women’s Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>Choralfest Concert (Chorale, Men’s Glee Club &amp; Mason Co. High School), HU, 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 9-11</td>
<td>Sitcom Taping, MC, 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 24-25</td>
<td>Sibling Invasion: Admissions Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25-27</td>
<td>Homecoming 2013 (with Zoo Reunion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Homecoming Concert (Concert Band, Chorale), HU, 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Fall PAC Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AK: Akers Auditorium
HU: Hughes Auditorium
MC: Miller Center

**Next Issue**: Read how gifts from Asbury alumni and friends are impacting the world in a special year-end report.
REACHING NEW HEIGHTS — Asbury University’s Tumbling Team — which held its first “Jym Jamboree” on campus in 1935 and became an “official” team in 1965 — toured America’s Southeast during spring break. While many college students across the country were taking it easy, Asbury’s Tumbling Team made stops in Kentucky, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina to present a high-energy show with an anti-bullying message to audiences as diverse as children with autism and refugee families. Along the way, sharing in the strong fellowship Asbury is known for, the team took some time out for some fun and to (literally) jump for joy.
Asbury Academy Goes Online!

High school seniors from around the country can now take online dual-enrollment classes at Asbury University. Seniors who are close enough to drive to campus may take one free class on campus each semester during their senior year of high school.

Learn more at asbury.edu/academy