Am I the Face of Mission?

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Students and faculty serve on a global stage at the 2012 Olympics

MARVELOUS MACHINERY
A behind-the-scenes look at the pipe organ in Hughes Auditorium

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and much more

asbury.edu
We are all called to be the face of mission.

EVERYONE.

EVERYWHERE.

EVERY DAY.

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LONDON CALLING
More than 80 Asbury students, faculty, staff and alumni traveled to England to work at the 2012 Olympic Games.

ALUMNI AUTHORS
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AMBASSADOR

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.

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President’s Message:
Salt and Light for the World

The second chapter of the book of Acts tells the story of a day so exciting to Jesus’ followers that you can almost see their emotions on the page. Pentecost had come, and as they were gathered together, the Holy Spirit equipped them to speak of the salvation accessible through the cross that had forever changed their lives just weeks before. Peter spoke to the growing crowd about the Lord he loved so much, to great effect: “Those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostle’s teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. … And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:41, 47b)

Though challenges would come, the newborn church was at this time perfectly aligned with the mission God had set out for it: proclamation of His unimaginable love through the sacrifice of His Son. When God’s people focus on their mission, amazing things can happen.

Mission is something we spend a good deal of time talking about at Asbury University. For many people, the idea of mission is synonymous with “missions” — cross-cultural, church-supported evangelistic efforts to share the Gospel message with people who have never heard the name of Jesus. In fact, the mission that Jesus left for the church — to tell the Good News of His sacrifice, resurrection and invitation for sinners to accept His forgiveness — is part of Asbury’s founding mission, as well. Founder John Wesley Hughes once wrote, “The object of Asbury College … has been to get sinners converted, and believers sanctified, and the student body established in the experience and doctrine of the Holy Scriptures.” Even today, Asburians around the world are working diligently as missionaries to preach, teach and reach the nations with the love of Christ, a heritage we embrace and enthusiastically support.

“When God’s people focus on their mission, amazing things can happen.”

However, when we use the word “mission,” we also draw on the classic Christian concept of vocation, or calling. As an institution, Asbury’s calling is to raise up a ready people for the waiting world — this is, to equip them to find the unique and powerful ways in which they can participate in God’s ongoing efforts to redeem and transform His world. This sense of mission might find Asbury grads in the halls of Congress, or the pediatric wards of hospitals, or corporate boardrooms, or on a studio set in Hollywood. When the mission is to educate students to be salt and light in whatever situation they might find themselves, the mission field is the whole world.

I am thankful for the many people who walk with Asbury in shared commitment to its mission, and I am thankful for the Lord’s faithfulness to enable us to do what He’s asked. May His love and grace continue to inspire in us the perseverance and joy our worthy calling deserves.

Dr. Sandra C. Gray
President

Salt and Light for the World

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.
Asbury University’s pipe organ in Hughes Auditorium is, like all pipe organs its size, a marvel of engineering.

At the time of its installation in 1929, it was the largest organ in the South-Central United States and boasted more than 3,000 pipes ranging in size from the length of a pencil to 32 feet. Most of that hardware remains; the silver pipes visible inside the auditorium are a tiny fraction of the organ’s full complement. The console is “command central” for each of the organ’s thousands of potential sounds and the most visible component of the mighty instrument. Tethered to the back wall of the platform, with an umbilical cord of wires, it can be moved throughout the platform.

However, the story of the organ is not merely one of mechanical precision or inspired engineering, though it is those things, as well. It is also the story of people — two women, in particular.
The first was introduced to Asbury through the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting in New Jersey in 1928. Mrs. James Magee listened as Asbury President Lewis Akers spoke about Asbury’s need for building funds to finish its new chapel. Moved by his appeal, “Little Mother Magee” — as she would be addressed in future correspondence with Akers — pledged to cover the full cost of a new pipe organ in memory of her son, Stanley Vernon Magee (who had died during World War I). The organ’s cost came to $28,000 — $365,000 in today’s dollars — and the instrument was completed in time for the dedication of the new auditorium in June 1929.

The second of Asbury’s great organ advocates had left the campus a few years prior in search of further training on this sort of instrument. Era Wilder Peniston began her schooling in Wilmore in a one-room schoolhouse on the Asbury campus. When she finished eighth grade, she stayed, attending Bethel Academy in the basement of Morrison Hall. When she finished high school at
Bethel, she stayed again, completing her B.Mus. and A.B. degrees at Asbury in 1926 and 1927.

Having exhausted the educational opportunities in Wilmore, Peniston followed her passion for music to Lexington, then Cincinnati, and then Paris, where she studied at the Paris Conservatory. She returned to Lexington in the ’30s and taught at the University of Kentucky for one year. She then returned to Asbury, where she became the chair of the division of Fine Arts.

“My call to teach Pipe Organ at Asbury was as definite a leading of the Holy Spirit as a call to the ministry or mission field for other Asburians,” she once said. Peniston taught at Asbury for 40 years and influenced generations of students with her passion for music and God.

Today, the organ is a little different. The instrument was reworked in 1975 — when several ranks of pipes were removed and the console was replaced — and the organ required extensive repairs after the 1992 construction of Reasoner Hall behind Hughes damaged some pipes.

What remains, however, is the legacy. Through the years, alumni have generously supported the organ’s ministry, including a $100,000 Reunion Gift project in 1999. This support enables a gift that was originally given in memory of a son to continue to provide an enduring soundtrack for many Asburians’ encounters with the Son.

“Each Sunday morning, around the world, there are church organists and missionaries leading people in worship and praise to our Heavenly Father who were trained at the great console of our sacred pipe organ,” Peniston said. “There is no way we could measure the influence of the hundreds of ministers of music, vocal soloists, teachers of music and organists who have studied at Asbury.”
1. When the organ is turned on, the air in the wind chest below the pipes is pressurized.

2. At the console, the organist selects "stops" by pressing select tabs above the keyboards, or manuals.

3. Each stop represents a particular type of sound, and the stops can be combined in thousands of different configurations to suit the type of music being played.

4. Cords connecting the console with the pipes and wind chest transmit the organist’s choices to a series of electronic relays (above) that correspond to a rank of pipes. A rank is 61 pipes, each of which corresponds to one key on a keyboard grouped by their common sound.

5. When the organist presses a key on the keyboard, air from the wind chest is released through the pipe, creating sound. To increase the volume, the organist opens a wall of wooden slats (below) that stands between the pipes and the audience with a pedal on the console. To decrease the volume, he uses the same pedal to close the slats.

6. Since the wind chamber’s air pressure is constant, the note will sound as long as the organist holds the key.

Did You Know?
The current Magee-Peniston Organ is the fifth organ to have found a home in Hughes Auditorium. The original Magee organ and three practice organs have at one time also been located in the building.

The nearly 3,000 pipes in the organ system range in size from the thickness of a pencil to the size of a one-gallon paint can.
For many Asbury University students, going to class means choosing a desk in Morrison Hall, rehearsing for the upcoming Christmas music concert or even logging in to post a question in an online course.

For senior Kylie Abegg, however, going to class means attending meetings on Capitol Hill, listening to top government officials explain policies and working on global development projects for different clients. Abegg is spending her last semester as an Asbury student in Washington, D.C., through the Best Semester program. A political science major, she spends Mondays and Fridays learning with the other participants in the program. The rest of her week is spent working as an intern at the International Justice Mission, a non-profit human rights agency that works to free victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression.

“I’m hoping that God provides me with a clearer sense of discernment this semester,” Abegg said. “My internship at IJM was definitely a God thing, and combatting human trafficking has long been an interest of mine. I’m hoping that He will give me clarity through this internship and show me the way to go.”

Abegg chose a presidential election year for her Best Semester experience in Washington and has chosen the global development and entrepreneurship track. The program brings together students from several Christian schools. By living in the heart of the city with two other young women in the program, she has her finger on the pulse of the nation.

“The biggest thing I’ve learned is that normal people, you and I, can make a difference,” she said. “Living in the District, everything is so accessible. You can schedule meetings with your congressmen, you can write to them, you can lobby, you can protest, you can vote. Just take action, and you will be amazed at what you can accomplish.”
Among the many things Asburians tend to do well is writing. It may be the strong foundation in the liberal arts that encourages critical thinking — a vital component of good writing — or it may simply be that given enough time pursuing academic excellence and spiritual vitality, they have plenty of good stories to tell. Either way, Asbury alumni have made a mark in nearly every imaginable subject through the printed word.

The following pages feature just a few of the many alumni who have ministered, inspired, challenged and enlightened others through their writing.
The ideas behind Dr. Stephen Seamands’ books flow from his experiences as a pastor, teacher, workshop leader, traveler and interested observer of human nature. But the finer points of grammar that give his work structure and clarity? Those come from his freshman English teacher at Asbury in 1966.

“She wouldn’t let me alone,” he said. “She had us write a lot of essays, and I would do well on the content part, but she kept my feet to the fire on the grammar. I’m thankful for that now.”

Currently a professor of Christian Doctrine at Asbury Theological Seminary, Seamands’ latest book is titled “Give Them Christ: Preaching His Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension and Return” and is targeted toward helping pastors anchor their congregations in the larger story of Christ and His life.

It was a recommendation from an Asbury professor to pursue a Masters of Fine Arts degree that unexpectedly broadened horizons for Nicole Mazzarella. She had never heard of an MFA, but decided to look into it.

It was advice well taken. After completing her MFA degree, Mazzarella published her first novel, “This Heavy Silence,” and won Christianity Today’s Fiction Book of 2006 Award. The book explores forgiveness, grief and grace through the story of a woman who is struggling to hold on to her farm in rural Ohio.

“My fiction often begins with setting,” Mazzarella said. “This Heavy Silence” is set on the farm where my grandmother grew up, so in part I was exploring my own background by learning more about the setting.”

Emma Sleeth came by her writing talents honestly — both of her parents have also published books. She has a head start on them, however; Sleeth’s manuscript, an account of her family’s faith-inspired foray into an environmentally sustainable lifestyle, was written the summer before she started her freshman year at Asbury.

“It’s Easy Being Green” was published my sophomore year,” Sleeth said. “Anyone who was in the vicinity of Glide-Crawford probably heard me squealing when I got the first copy in the mail.”

Today, Sleeth continues to put her foundation in Christian stewardship to work as the special projects coordinator at Blessed Earth, a Lexington, Ky.-based non-profit organization that raises awareness of creation care practices and opportunities among people of faith.
Dr. Bart Bruehler ’95


“My wife, Anne, and I lived in a long-term homeless recovery program, managing a large house that hosted a wide variety of residents and guests,” he said. “Later, we moved into a community filled with resettled refugees where open homes and hospitality was a way of life. These experiences made me more aware of how places affect our relationships and ministry.

“As I worked through Luke in my doctoral program, I noticed that he liked to put Jesus in big crowds or cities. That was the fertile soil for several years of research.”

Dr. Marilyn Sue Shank ’74

Within the pages of Dr. Marilyn Sue Shank’s debut novel, “Child of the Mountains,” is not only a story of a young girl’s struggle to make sense of a complicated world but also the tale of Shank embracing a new calling.

“During the past few years, some physical limitations have kept me from teaching — my God-given passion,” Shank said. “But then I realized God was promoting me into the next chapter of my life with a new passion, writing fiction.”

The story is set in the rolling hills and mountains of West Virginia — a location Shank knows well from her own childhood there. Using regional dialect and a keen knowledge of the culture of Appalachia, Shank explores themes of faith and innocence. “Child of the Mountains” is recommended for youth age 9 and up.

Dr. Matthew Schlimm ’99

Dr. Matthew Schlimm got the idea to study anger from a Biblical perspective as a student at Asbury, studying the book of Jeremiah in Dr. Victor Hamilton’s Old Testament class.

“I was amazed at how the book portrays God in emotional terms,” he said. “This God can become deeply angry at some moments, and then be moved to tears at other times. It occurred to me that our culture and even the Church must have some mistaken ideas about emotions. If God can be deeply moved, then isn’t it OK for Christians to do the same?”

“From Fratricide to Forgiveness: The Language and Ethics of Anger in Genesis” is written in three parts: Part 1 deals with the Hebrew words for anger, Part 2 focuses on Old Testament ethics, and Part 3 addresses anger in Genesis.
S

Since 1984, Asbury students have served in various capacities as paid employees at each Olympic Games location, and in recent years, media outlets in the United States have engaged additional students to cover the event for their audiences. The Asbury teams work as camera operators and assistants, audio assistants, reporters, broadcast public relations staff and utility workers.

Asbury University student Jen Silver ’14 traveled to London this year to work for some of the international broadcasters, as well as for
alumni traveled to the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England, to work, learn and minister in ways large and small.

by Rebekah Daniel

internship credit toward her Media Communication and Theatre and Cinema Performance majors. She has been around her share of dramatic personalities and the logistical considerations that can make or break a show. For her, big crowds are energizing, and the relationship between a performer and the crowd is one of the most beautiful things she can imagine.

That said, witnessing the Olympic Games from the inside was an experience that blew her previous reference points for logistics — and sheer human spectacle — out of the water.
“More than anything, I learned to plan ahead as much as you can,” she said. “For example, the city did a lot ahead of time to get ready for the extra crowds that would be using the tube (the underground train system). But no one in logistics realized that London’s transportation shuts down at midnight — until the day before the opening ceremonies dress rehearsal.

“I walked into the office the day before the dress rehearsal and saw all of them wondering how to get several thousand broadcasters home at 12:30.”

Silver’s tasks included handing out uniforms, relaying messages between offices and checking people in for meals. Once the Games started, she filled in as a camera assistant for the high-jump event, worked a boom microphone as an audio assistant and helped tear down equipment as a utility worker, as well.

The breadth of experiences she gained offered valuable clarification on her calling to connect with people through media. However, the relationships formed with students from other schools and countries sometimes led to spiritual conversations with potential to outlast any professional advancement. For example, Silver became friends with another student from Ireland and was able to provide — and receive — some much appreciated encouragement and fellowship after a long day preparing for the Opening Ceremonies.

“We were talking, and it turns out she is a Christian,” Silver said. “She said she doesn’t have a single Christian friend at her university, and she’s had a rough time. She said it was awesome meeting a bunch of other students who actually believed what she does.”

Adjunct Professor Christine McAlister ’01 found herself drawing on the same attitude of flexibility in her work at the basketball venue as she organized student workers into crews.
From production meetings conducted in Hebrew — some of the basketball broadcasters were from Israel — to broadcast schedules that started at 9 a.m. and ended at midnight, the experience was both hectic and full of new connections. Assisting her capacity to go with the flow was her previous experience working at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City (2002).

“When I worked in Salt Lake, I really wanted a lot of structure,” McAlister said. “But when I got to London, I remembered that a lot of production is ‘hurry up and wait.’ Sometimes there’s not something for you to do because you’re waiting on someone to finish up their part. This time I took it as an opportunity to make friends and network.”

In addition to the Asbury group that worked with international broadcasters, a smaller team of students covered the Games from a different angle. Reporting for print and broadcast outlets in the U.S., this group put together articles, photos and video packages.

Amy Patterson ‘13 found having news stations back in Kentucky depending on the team raised the stakes.

“The pressure was on to provide quality content on deadline,” she said. “The most important thing I learned from a professional standpoint was how to manage my time so everything was completed to the required standards.”

Students from both groups took advantage of being in a place that was, for a short time, the center of the world. When a day at work includes watching history being made, the cost in time and effort seems worth it.

“One of my favorite moments was in the women’s high jump,” Silver said. “On her last jump, the underdog from the U.S. team clears the bar and lets out this scream over and over. It was beautiful. It was a very human moment. We live for those moments, and when other people achieve them, we live through them, too.”
One thing Mackenzie Burke ‘15 has learned from competing on Asbury’s volleyball team is the importance of a well-considered, step-by-step plan for advancing toward defined goals. In her case, the plan extends beyond athletics.

“I started out wanting to be a social work major,” Burke said. “And it was close to what I wanted, but not exactly.

“The more I found opportunities to do missions and teach overseas, the more I realized that was what I wanted to do.”

As an Asbury student, Burke has traveled to South Korea and the Dominican Republic, and she has plans to visit Costa Rica later this year. Ultimately, her goal is to teach disadvantaged elementary-aged children in Haiti. The game plan for achieving this goal? Serve when the opportunities arrive, work hard to master the techniques in her teaching methods classes this semester and prepare now for the future she hopes to see.

“I’m preparing myself to teach by making connections with other teachers, visiting the country and pursuing my education here,” Burke said. “When it comes to student teaching, I’ll apply to do that in Haiti. If I get to student teach for those eight weeks in Haiti, that will be a big step.”

A Lexington, Ky., native, Burke’s passion for education in a cross-cultural context was nurtured as a child through church mission trips. Looking back, she can discern the pattern of her call becoming more evident over time — a call that Asbury is playing a role in shaping along the way.

“It begins with developing myself as a Christian and also making sure that my goals as a teacher, a Christian and as a servant are aligned correctly,” Burke said. “I believe that it’s really important for all of us to serve, no matter what we’re doing.”
As a missionary kid growing up in India, Jack Moon ’73 attended an international school and knew he eventually wanted to teach in one, too. Asbury University provided not only the academic training he needed to accomplish this plan, but also the athletic opportunities — Moon participated on the soccer, tumbling and tennis teams at Asbury — that filled an important dimension of his education.

“I found the academic life of Asbury gave me sufficient tools to enter into the teaching profession with a measure of confidence,” he said. “The first year is always tough, but I found that I was able to rise to the challenge and enjoy my time with the students both academically and as a coach.”

“Asbury grounded me in Scripture and gave me a moral compass that has served me well through the years.”

After graduating from Asbury, Moon taught at a K-8 school in Georgia, where he was able to build a high-school science curriculum from the ground up as the school added grades. Overseas, he began teaching biology at Seoul Foreign School, a mission school that grew four-fold during his 25 years at a teacher.

Currently, he serves as the Activities Director at Seoul Foreign School, where he has helped develop a sports and fine arts program that allows more than two-thirds of the students in the school to engage in activities that provide a holistic approach to their education — just the sort of education Moon received at Asbury.

“Depending on the country you work in, the opportunities vary, but kids are kids wherever you go,” Moon said. “They all are grappling with the same kinds of needs and challenges. To have the opportunity to help young people navigate through the struggles of life and faith has made my life rich beyond measure.”
n 2007, Asbury University developed the Cornerstone Project, an exploration of the key elements of spiritual vitality at Asbury University.

In 2012-13, the Ambassador is examining the Cornerstone values chosen for the project — Scripture, Mission, Stewardship and Holiness — with an eye toward exploring the way in which each one has shaped Asbury’s past, lives in its present and guides its future. This article explores Mission; the President’s Annual Report this winter will address Stewardship.

Asbury explores the call to serve anytime, anywhere
“A group of three or four of us young men were in a boy’s room praying about 10 o’clock. I remember I was rather drowsy, and I had my head on the side of the bed as I knelt beside it, when suddenly we were all swept off our feet by the Holy Spirit. We never slept the balance of the night. I could only walk the floor and praise Him.…

“The next morning we went to the chapel service, and there wasn’t any chapel service, only people down on their faces, prone, praying for pardon, for release — and they would get it. People came in, and when they’d come inside of the college compound, they would fall under the power of the Spirit before they even got to the place. Every classroom was turned into a prayer meeting. No classes for three days, and at the end, there was probably not an unconverted person in that whole school.

“I wondered what it meant. But I saw what it meant, later. From that moment I was ready to go anywhere and do anything. He said, ‘I want you to be a missionary.’ That created the climate. I said, ‘All right, I’m ready to go anywhere.’ I thought it was Africa; it turned out to be India. But I saw the resources that are behind a person when he goes out. You don’t have to work in the energy of the flesh, but you can work in the power of the Spirit. And He can take everything you’ve got and make something else out of it by faith.”

“Everyone is called to mission. It’s about seeing what God is doing and finding out how we fit into that.”

— Dr. Lynn Shmidt
Asbury Professor

The year was 1905, and the sleepy young man who encountered the Lord in such a powerful way that he was ready to “go anywhere and do anything” was E. Stanley Jones. A 1906 graduate of Asbury University, Jones went on to decades of fruitful ministry in India in which he developed a lasting relationship with Mahatma Gandhi and influenced the nation through his contextualization of Jesus’ life and sacrifice.

Jones is just the sort of person who comes to mind when many present-day Christians think of the term “mission” — after all, he was a mission-ary. Though he is perhaps more recognized than most, he is just one of many Asburians who have been sent out to preach and teach the good news of Jesus throughout the world from a school that values Christian evangelism as a cherished tradition and vibrant present calling.
For example, Matthew Citak ’13 traveled to South America in 2011 to deepen the relationship between his church and several villages high in the mountains of Central Peru. His expenses for the trip were covered by the Asbury University Initiative for Servant Leadership in International Development.

Established in 2004, the Asbury Initiative has awarded grants of up to $10,000 to more than 100 students to perform volunteer service in the areas of international community, social and economic development, public wellness and treatment, literacy and education in developing countries.

For eight weeks, Citak and three other youth from his church lived with two translators at a tiny hostel in the bottom of the Chancay River Valley. Each week, the team would walk miles to the tops of the surrounding mountains to visit village residents, teach English, study the Bible and answer questions about Christianity.

“I taught several times from the book of Ephesians during our Bible studies,” he said. “There was one verse I talked about that essentially summed up my summer. Ephesians 3:20 says that Jesus ‘…is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.’ Despite all the various challenges, whether it was hiking up mountains or preaching in front of a church, God was able to accomplish much more through me than I ever thought possible.”

Many a student’s mission trip has also been inspired by Asbury’s requirement that each student complete a cross-cultural experience in order to graduate. The goal of the cross-cultural experience is to strengthen students’ abilities to interact with the world community and to increase their cultural sensitivity, with the ultimate goals of a broadened awareness as to how they might fit into God’s plan of redemption in other cultures, and develop competency to effectively serve Christ in a global society. While it isn’t a requirement students’ trips revolve around evangelism or Christian service, many do.

“The call of God for mission, which is His heartbeat, comes alive for students when they go,” says Dr. Kathryn Hendershot, director of the cross-cultural experience. “Their whole worldview is expanded.”

The institutional respect for missions is even reflected in the geography of Asbury’s main campus in Wilmore, Ky. Lining one of the major roads around the north side of the campus are centers for the Salvation Army, One Mission Society and the World Gospel Mission, and one block over is the headquarters for Go International.

“I’m hoping it might even be seen as one of the distinctives of Asbury, that we allow students to understand their calling outside of traditional missionary activity.”

— Dr. Lynn Schmidt

Asbury Initiative grants are awarded for volunteer services related to building, literacy, economic development and much more.

Each organization offers opportunities for short-term missions to Asbury’s student bodies. Combined with these is the annual Great Commission Congress, a week-long focus on mission and evangelism during which missionaries — many of them alumni — offer workshops and presentations about the ways students can become involved in God’s work.
among his people. Missions at Asbury are alive and well.

**More than Meets the Eye**

It might be worth considering, however, that “mission trips” are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the broader meaning of mission. The mission that you see — evangelism in Peru, or church building in urban United States cities — is often dwarfed by the Kingdom work that moves quietly below the surface, supporting the more visible ministries above. The Mission of the Cornerstone values is at once simple and profound; it is the vocation, the calling, that can unite each facet of Christian life under the one umbrella of furthering the Kingdom of God on Earth.

Dr. Lynn Shmidt is an associate professor in the Christian Studies and Philosophy Department at Asbury and a bona fide missionary — he and his wife spent 18 years living and working with church leaders in Botswana and South Africa. He is keenly aware that effective ministry, whether in the mission field across the ocean or the mission field across the back-yard fence, is based on relationships.

“Everyone is called to mission,” Shmidt said. “It’s about seeing what God is doing and finding out how we can fit into that. When Matthew records the Great Commission, the word that our English translations translate as ‘go’ is not imperative. The verb is really more like ‘as you are going.’

It’s an idea that has resonated for some time with alumni who have found that their mission field is wherever they make a point to share the peace and love of Christ. Andrew Coleman ‘98 came to Asbury as a transfer student after a disillusioning freshman year at another university. He thought he wanted to play baseball for a living, but things weren’t working out.

“I ended up getting a job with a company that does business all over the world,” he continued. “Since then, I’ve been able to be a missionary through business. That’s what I was made to do, that’s what He blessed me with. I remember vividly sitting here hearing God say, ‘Will you be Jonah or will you be Joseph?’ and I really thought about it.

“God wants us to make films that are true, noble and pure — and also excellent. God has given me a unique set of gifts to tell stories, whether it be through plays, musicals, radio dramas or films. We fit into that.”

—— Jeremy White ’06

I said, ‘God, I’m going to follow you like Joseph, no matter what. I’m not going to run. I’m going to follow you.’

As an institution, we’re training people for a much more holistic ministry, with strategies of mission including teachers, business people and others. I’m hoping that it might even be seen as one of the distinctives of Asbury, that we allow students to understand their calling outside of traditional missionary activity.”

Asbury alums Kendra (above) and Jeremy White worked together on the production team for the film “Summer Snow.”
“The calling is to be Christs in whatever way we are able to be; with whatever gladness we have and in whatever place, among whatever brothers we are called to.”

— Frederick Buechner
American writer/theologian

Brother-sister duo Jeremy ’06 and Kendra ’09 White have found a path to use their creative talents in a redemptive way by working together to write and produce media such as children’s musicals and films. Kendra works for American Family Studios in Tupelo, Miss., and Jeremy is the Children’s Director at Lexington (Ky.) First Assembly of God.

Last summer, they shot a feature-length film called “Summer Snow” at different locations around Wilmore and Lexington.

Not too many years ago, filmmaking might have been frowned upon by the Christian evangelical community because of its association with decadence and immorality. For Jeremy, though, making movies is an effective avenue for radio dramas or films. During my time at Asbury, God was refining these gifts in me so that I would have all the tools necessary to engage people with the truth.

“With film, I’m able to take a complex thought and express it to my audience. It’s one thing to say, ‘Go out and love others,’ but when I can show that in a film, it really comes to life for the audience. We are able to walk them through practical ways they do that through the lives of our characters.”

Reaching Out, Reaching In
And so the conviction grows that mission, in its truest, most universal sense, is more concerned with faithfulness than location, with obedience than method, with every believer cooperating with the Spirit’s movement in their unique circumstances. Asbury’s official mission 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. Simply put, Asbury’s mission must be to equip students to live their mission: the merger of their passions and skills with the purposes of God in the world.

“Jesus said, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’ [Matt 4:4], and in the end every word that proceeds from the mouth of God is the same word, and the word is Christ himself,” said Frederick Buechner, American writer and theologian. “That is the vocation, the calling of all of us, the calling to be Christs in whatever way we are able to be. To be Christs with whatever gladness we have and in whatever place, among whatever brothers we are called to. That is the vocation, the destiny to which we were all of us called even before the foundations of the world.”
ONE ON ONE
with Dr. Linda Stratford

Asbury University art students know Associate Professor Linda Stratford’s passion for charting the intersections between art, society and faith. Increasingly, the broader world of art professionals sees this, as well. Stratford has served as president of Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA) since 2009 and formed a new scholarly association, the Association of Scholars of Christianity in the History of Art (ASCHA), with three colleagues in 2010. The Ambassador recently spoke with her about art’s role in the Church and the world.

Q: CIVA.org lists three components of the organization’s mission: called to creative work, devoted to the Church and present in culture. Could you share more about CIVA’s goal?
A: It started in 1979 — in fact, Rudy Medlock, a faculty emeritus at Asbury, is one of the founders of CIVA. He and others saw that those who were Christians and artists didn’t often realize they all existed and that they could perhaps be better nurtured in their sense of calling if they knew each other. They began to hold conferences, get together and the organization grew. For the first 20 years, the mission of the organization was more focused on encouraging Christians who happened to be visual artists or who were in the visual arts professions — gallery directors, museum people, art educators.

We’ve come to a place now, 30 years down the road, of wanting to draw...
the Church in and draw artists to the Church in a very purposeful way. Artists and art professionals are still central to our organization, but we would be excited if pastors attended our conferences and joined CIVA at a really high rate. We have so many resources for churches. We have manuals on how to build a gallery in your church. We have traveling exhibits that are of the highest caliber that often travel to churches for no more than the cost of shipping. There are ways we like to serve churches, and I don’t think that the churches realize that.

Q: Why does the Church, particularly, need art?
A: Imagistic representation of truth has long been a part of the Church. In the early Church, where symbols were used, the symbol of the fish is probably the most well known. The Church at that time was in persecution, and covert symbols were used for that reason. Beyond that, symbols can function as metaphors, and sometimes theological truths are difficult enough and in-depth enough that words alone don’t bear sufficient meaning. But sometimes where words fail, a visual image gives possibilities — for example, the Trinity as an image of three inter-penetrating circles. In the Church today, we’ve lost a lot because we no longer lean on the symbols.

Q: What are some challenges to a closer relationship between visual arts and churches?
A: The challenge of sufficient funding from Christian sectors is a real challenge. Very few people would leave church each Sunday without having had any music. But often you’ll leave church without having had any visual art. Why is that? Of course in the Catholic Church, there’s a strong artistic tradition, so I’m really thinking of the Protestant church. In CIVA, we have Orthodox members, we have Catholic members, we have Protestant members. It’s our Protestant members who feel the need for this nurturing, and nurturing takes funding. It takes committees, purpose, and it takes leadership. The will to incorporate the visual arts needs to be there.

Artists, on the other hand, need to be willing to be flexible in terms of what a particular congregation can tolerate, accept and understand. Sometimes the bandwidth isn’t wide enough on either side. The church may not be accepting enough of the artist who is, by nature, rather free-spirited. On the other hand, artists come in with their free spirits too demanding, and the connect just isn’t there. So, the two often turn their backs on each other, and that’s unfortunate.

Q: How can Asbury help young artists while they are here?
A: The spiritual foundation here is so remarkable. Because artists are expressive people working primarily from an intellectual and expressive place, they need grounding where the intellectual and the expressive have met with Christian faith in an authentic way. In terms of mission for life, especially for a person in such an expressive field as the visual arts, what ends up getting expressed is going to be modulated by your spiritual life, whether wittingly or unwittingly. You could have a very dark spiritual life, and that’s going to come out.

We’re pretty radical to say we believe in revelation — I don’t mean the Book of Revelation, but just the notion of revelation, of God breaking in to this world. We believe in more than a naturalistic view. Monet was a naturalist. He loved flowers, he created beautiful gardens, and painted fantastic pieces. That’s wonderful, and I love Monet., but we would put a student on to the next step and say, ‘Tell me more about the theological inspiration this represents.’

Today, most people going into an art career need a graduate degree. This is becoming more and more the reality. So we’re the foundation. The grounding they receive here should set them up to go on, in terms of a Christian perspective. It’s an ongoing, life-long thing, but at least they’ve been introduced to the equation of art and faith linked, not in conflict — nurturing each other, necessarily.
Hitch Up the Team  
The fourth-annual Draft Horse Day saw hundreds of visitors enjoying the Asbury University Equine Center and Mission Farm Project in September. While a team of draft horses plowed a portion of the Mission Farm garden to prepare for winter crops, educational booths and demonstrations introduced students and local community members to Asbury’s vaulting and Police Mount programs.

Lasting Impact  
Asbury University has acquired two valuable theological collections tied to its Wesleyan heritage that include works ranging from the mid-17th century through the late 19th century. The “Wesley Collection” documents the development of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, as an author, theologian and evangelist as well as the rise of Methodism in 18th- and 19th-century England. The “Macclesfield Collection” includes works that influenced Wesley’s education and offers a glimpse of the religious writings of the 17th- and 18th-century Anglican church. Both collections are accessible through the Archives on weekday afternoons or by calling (859) 858-3511, x2292 for an appointment.

Moving On Up  
Asbury University celebrated upward movement both in its status in the U.S. News and World Report rankings and in enrollment numbers, which topped 1,700 students for the first time. The University was ranked fourth in the Regional Colleges South category, up one notch from last year’s ranking and it was the only school in the state of Kentucky represented in the Top 15. The record enrollment came through growth in several of Asbury’s programs, including undergraduate, graduate and Adult Professional Studies (degree-completion programs).

Bringing Home Gold  
Asbury University students took home three Student Production Awards — the most ever in one year — at the recent 48th-Annual Ohio Valley Regional Emmy® Awards. Two additional student projects received Honorable Mention, and two alumni won awards for their work with regional broadcast stations.

- Asbury alumnus Matthew Grimm ’02 won an Emmy® Award in the Magazine Feature/Segment category for “Memorials,” a segment on the Kentucky Education Network’s show “Kentucky Life.”
- Jonathan Cooper ’08, Creative/Promotions Producer at WKYT-TV in Lexington, Ky., won an Emmy® with two co-workers for their program promo “WKYT: Official UK Station,” which promoted WKYT’s coverage of University of Kentucky athletics.
Minds on Ministry
Nearly two dozen high-school students gathered at Asbury University in October to explore what it means to be called into ministry through “The Call Conference 2012: Fully Known.” The annual conference draws participants from across the Eastern United States to get to know other students with similar interests and gain tools to minister in their current settings. There is also a youth leaders track in which adults who work in church youth ministry can be equipped to better guide their ministry-minded youth.

Outrageous Revival
September’s traditional Fall Revival saw Rev. Jorge Acevedo ’84 drawing students, faculty and staff to the healing, inviting, equipping love of God through a week of Chapel and evening services in Hughes Auditorium. Acevedo is the lead pastor at Grace Church in Southwest Florida. Throughout the Fall Revival event, he called the Asbury community to embrace the freedom-producing “Outrageous Love of God” as a motivation for service and ministry.

Hobbits in the Limelight
Dr. Devin Brown, Asbury University English professor and Lilly Scholar, has published “The Christian World of The Hobbit,” a book about the spiritual environment of J.R.R. Tolkien’s Middle Earth. A film based on “The Hobbit” is set to release in late 2012. Brown has three books about Narnia, the fictional realm that is the setting for C.S. Lewis’ popular “Chronicles of Narnia” series, already in print. Each of them — “Inside Narnia,” “Inside Prince Caspian” and “Inside The Voyage of the Dawn Treader” — were timed to coincide with the release of a film based on Lewis’ corresponding book.

Asbury Honors McMillan
Asbury held a special Chapel service in October to honor and celebrate the life of senior Jeff McMillan, who passed away suddenly after collapsing while playing rugby with friends. Asbury planted a tree near the athletic fields in honor of McMillan who worked with the physical plant on campus beautification project for four years and was a dynamic sports fan.

“Serving” Love
The Asbury volleyball team traveled to the Republic of Korea over the summer to conduct a series of clinics, but their service extended much further than the gym. The team ministered to the residents of Lydia’s House, a small group home for elderly, blind women in Seoul, as well as babies at the Eastern Child Welfare Society.

Building on Strong Foundational Courses
Asbury University’s General Education core — a significant portion of each undergraduate’s degree plan and the basis of the University’s liberal arts philosophy — has been updated for the 2012-13 academic year. Now called Foundational Courses, the retooled system better accommodates strategic growth in University programs. The new arrangement provides a framework through which students and professors can discuss the “big” questions of life — for example, “Who is God?” and “Why do good people suffer?” — through the lens of each discipline. One of the new Foundational Course requirements is a three-credit-hour liberal arts enrichment course and a one-hour survey course, both of which are being developed by the Liberal Arts Council.
Honoring Service
Dr. Rita Pritchett passed away in August following a three-year battle with brain cancer, leaving a legacy of excellence in both classroom instruction and on-the-field coaching. Pritchett taught at Asbury nearly 40 years and coached for 27, establishing and then coaching volleyball, softball, women’s tennis and women’s track and field. She also served as athletic director — the first woman to do so in the state of Kentucky — for 10 years. Pritchett spent her adult life teaching, mentoring and modeling for her students a Christ-like approach to education, competition and relationship with others. Gifts to the Rita Pritchett Scholarship Fund will continue to impact varsity athletes majoring in Health, Physical Education and Recreation who desire to coach and teach after graduating.

Swanson Follows God’s Call
Asbury University bid a fond farewell to Greg Swanson, Vice President of Advancement and General Counsel, in September as he followed God’s call to serve in a similar capacity at another institution of higher learning in North Carolina. Convinced of the Lord’s leading to entrust Asbury’s development to his colleagues, he remained confident of the University’s leadership in Christian education. “God has been faithful to bless the educational ministry of Asbury University in clear ways,” he said. “The continued partnership of alumni and supporters helps to keep the University strong, and their contagious love for Asbury bears witness to the lasting impact of the relationships formed here.” President Sandra Gray commented on the bittersweet nature of celebrating an administrator’s significant accomplishments while saying “goodbye” to the fellowship of a friend at a reception in Swanson’s honor in the Student Center. “We hate to see Greg leave, but we understand completely that he made this decision with much prayer,” she said. “Asbury is a better place for the time he spent here, and we pray God’s blessings over his new labors.”

Following the Leaders
Nearly 20 speakers and leaders from around the U.S. shared their wisdom with students at Asbury during “Faith and Leading with Integrity,” the Fall 2012 Faith and Culture Series event in October. Asbury partnered with the Breakfast with Fred Leadership Institute to bring leaders to campus for classes, meals, panels and special events.

Hurricane Isaac Relief
A dozen students traveled to provide disaster assistance to Louisiana residents in the days following Hurricane Isaac’s landfall in August. Greg Martin ’01 led the team to New Orleans for a weekend of clearing debris and the distribution of supplies.

Master of Improv
Organist David Briggs performed nearly two hours of improvised music in Hughes Auditorium as a soundtrack for Cecil B. DeMille’s classic “King of Kings” in the first Artist Series event of the academic year. His repertoire ranged from classical to contemporary and Asbury music students had an opportunity to improvise with the well-known organist earlier in the day.
1960s

Martha Fruth ’61 Kirkpatrick published her first book “PENDO: God Loves Africa!” chronicling the 41 years she and her husband Virgil Leroy Kirkpatrick ’59 were missionaries in Central Africa. It also contains a brief history of the 50 years her father-in-law, Virgil Eugene Kirkpatrick ’26, and mother-in-law spent as missionaries in Africa. The book is available through Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

1970s

Ted Faye ’77 is author of the newest book in the Images of America Series titled “The Twenty Mule Team of Death Valley.” goldcreekfilms.com/20mule.html

1980s

Laurie Alice Eakes ’80 has published her 11th book, titled “The Carpenter’s Inheritance.” For a complete list, visit LaurieAliceEakes.com.

1990s

Clinton ’94 and Sarah Thomas ’93 Baldwin welcomed the arrival of Kairos (Kai) Zacharian Thomas Baldwin on Sept. 13, 2012.


Wendy Larsen ’94 Edwards has completed her Master of Science degree in school counseling from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn.

Stan Pelkey ’94 has joined the faculty at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, N.Y., as the founding Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He is also an Associate Professor of Music. He and his wife, Heidi Morris ’91 Pelkey, reside in Pittsford, N.Y., with their children, Nathan and Madison.

Leland ’98 and Tabatha Love ’96 Conway have moved to Richmond, Va., where Leland is host of a daily show on News Radio 1140.

2000s

Betsy Lynne Hall ’01 married Nick Ledoux on Aug. 25, 2012, in Opelika, Ala. They met while working in Haiti for Samaritan’s Purse and will live in Boone, N.C.

Jonathan and Abby Ellinger ’03 Burns, and big sister Adalyn, welcomed Cayden James on July

Michelle Medlock ’91 Adams (center) was awarded “The Selah Award for Best Children’s Book” for her latest children’s title, “My Big Book of Prayers,” at the Blue Ridge Mountain Christian Writers Conference in May. This is Michelle’s 53rd published book to date.
26, 2012, in Lexington, Ky. Along with being a mom, Abby works full time at Southland Christian Church on the finance team.

**Anne Sabitino '03 Hardy**
was named Marketing and Membership Manager for Kentucky Petroleum Marketers Association, headquartered in Lexington, Ky. anne.hardy@kpma.net.


**Bahar Altug ’06** married Chris Hill on July 13, 2012, and currently lives in Knoxville, Tenn.


**Miriam Ellis ’11 and Evan Fleming ’11** were married on June 2, 2012, in Lexington, Ky. Three groomsmen in the wedding were also recent Asbury graduates: Ely Cartwright ’09, Chris Wylie ’12 and Joe Chambers ’09. The couple is currently living in Lexington. Miriam is working in the Development Office at Asbury.

**Marcus Speakman ’06** married Mary Akatu on Aug. 4, 2012, in Salisbury, Md. Marcus and Mary live in Gaithersburg, Md.

**Tyler ’07 and Ruth O’Neal ’07 Tate** announce the arrival of Atticus Russell Tate on April 7, 2012, in Harlton, Cambridgeshire, England. Proud Asbury grandparents are Rusty ’82 and Phyllis Lane ’82 Tate and Tom ’71 and Eloise Nel ’12 O’Neal (M.A.).

**Andrea Gyertson ’95 Nasfell** wrote the screenplay for “Escape,” a faith-based drama, released on DVD in August 2012 and available at Christian bookstores, RedBox and WalMart. Nasfell has written another Christmas television movie called “Christmas Angel” that will air on Dec. 1 on GMC network starring Della Reese, Teri Polo and Kevin Sorbo. You can read more about Andrea’s movies at her blog, ahundredhats.wordpress.com.

**Jon Cooper ’08** won an Emmy at the Ohio Valley Emmy Awards for the program promo “WKYT: Official UK Station” which promoted WKYT’s coverage of University of Kentucky athletics.

**Morgan Shutters ’09** married Adrian Thomas on June 16, 2012, in Naples, Fla. They live in Amarillo, Texas.

**Colin Reed ’09** and Rachel Caslen were married in Estes Park, Colo., on Sept. 7, 2012, which would have been the 62nd anniversary of his grandparents. The couple lives in Aurora, Colo.

**Ian Slater ’10 and Rachel Spiegel ’10 Slater** recently moved to Marion, Ind. Ian will serve as
a Resident Director at Indiana Wesleyan University.


Jonathan Camacho ’11 (right) spent several weeks over the summer working as a research assistant for Dr. Mauricio Phelan at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. While there, he also was able to advance his own research, “Political Attitudes and Participatory Democracy in Venezuela,” toward publication in the future.


Please submit all class notes and photos to the Alumni Office at: ambassador@asbury.edu

Timothy Bailie ’06 and Sarah Matthews ’09 were married June 16, 2012, at Trinity Hill UMC in Lexington, Ky. Sarah is the daughter of Mark ’83 and Gail Jones ’83 Matthews.
In Memoriam

Sara Vance ’34 Carner, Missions, 6/11/2012, Bradenton, Fla.
Lois Whitney ’39 Folk, Missions, 7/24/2012, Tahlequah, Okla.
Dr. Virgil Sexton ’41, Ministry, 6/5/2012, Austell, Ga.
Alberta Devenpeck ’42, Medicine, 8/18/2012, Oneonta, N.Y.
Rev. Durlan Dumm ’44, Ministry, 6/5/2012, Sebring, Ohio
Eunice Grooms ’44 Gray, Education, 3/15/2012, Chillicothe, Ohio
Dr. Fred McGinnis ’45, Ministry, 9/2/2012, Austell, Ga.
Clifford Abbott ’46, Science, 7/13/2012, Akron, Ohio
Doris Radovich ’46 Davis, Missionary, 10/5/2012, Monroeville, Ala.
Kathryn Adams ’47 Boss, Ministry, 6/11/2012, Carlsbad, Calif.
Marian Nagle ’48 Hunt, Education, 7/10/2012, Lakeland, Fla.
Dr. B. Willis Gierhart ’49, Ministry, 4/24/2012, Indianapolis, Ind.
Yvonne Roughton ’49 Rustin, Education, 8/15/2012, Tucker, Ga.
Rev. Douglas Jeffrey ’50, Missions, 8/24/2012, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Martha Rose Herlong ’53 Ellis, Education, 10/1/2012, Fort Deposit, Ala.
Richard Lewis ’55, Business, 8/6/2012, Sarasota, Fla.
Robert Bradford ’57, Education, 9/3/2012, Sandy Point, Maine
Mary Yarbrough ’57 Donham, Education, 6/5/2012, Decatur, Ala.
Martha Ridenour ’57, 4/19/2012, Canby, Calif.
Doretta Barnhart ’58 Current, Education, 4/15/2012, Carrollton, Ohio
Carol Ash ’59 Kundenreich, Education, 4/16/2012, Muncie, Ind.
Audre’ Williams ’61 Nelson, Ministry, 7/31/2012, Coshocoht, Ohio
Dr. Mary Townley ’61 Schreiber, Medicine, 7/4/2012, Berkeley, Calif.
Dr. Rita Pritchett ’69, Education, 8/26/2012, Wilmore, Ky.
Rev. Ray Rainsberger ’70, Business, 6/11/2012, Columbus, Ohio
Rolando Rivera ’72, 6/23/2012, Crown Point, Ind.
Bradley Stayer ’73, Carpenter, 1/11/2012, Lake Placid, Fla.
Susan Mulvin ’80 Busse, Education, 7/6/2012, Longview, Texas
J. Craig Greenham ’80, Ministry, 10/29/2011, Ardmore, Okla.
Paula Wetzel ’86 Winter, Education, 6/27/2012, Sandy, Utah
Russell Oestreich ’88, Education, 7/24/2012, Neenah, Wis.
Samuel Horsfield ’89, 8/27/2012, Lexington, Ky.
Naomi Thompson ’01, Medicine, 8/28/2012, Greenwood, Ind.
Jeffrey W. McMillan ’11, 10/6/2012, Florence, Ky.

friends

Dr. Virginia Brubaker, 10/7/2012, Wilmore, Ky.
Ruth Anderson Hartman, 8/31/2012, Wilmore, Ky.
Eda Jameson, 10/5/2012, Medford, Ore.
Dr. Edmund Kornfeld, 6/22/2012, Fishers, Ind.
Theodore Kyriakidis, 8/5/2012, East Ridge, Tenn.
Clarence Leeson, 3/3/2012, Westerville, Ohio
Shirley Mikesell, 4/25/2012, Bradenton, Fla.
Lucy Nichols, 8/12/2012, Wilmore, Ky.
Irene Rainwater, 6/17/2012, Wilmore, Ky.
Dr. Samuel Williams ’70 — “Dr. Sam” to friends and patients — came to Asbury University because of its strong reputation in the sciences and outstanding track record in getting its pre-med students into medical school. It was also, as he says, “the launching pad” where he began to build the foundation for how he would channel his faith into a profession and career.

After college, medical school and several years of practice in Virginia, Williams began volunteering his services in developing-world hospitals under the banner of World Medical Mission, the medical arm of Samaritan’s Purse. To date, he’s served 22 one- to two-month mission assignments in countries such as Ecuador, Kenya, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Togo.

Some of those assignments are to facilities he has visited in the past. As he returns to familiar places and faces, the relationships with other staff members become as much a part of the ministry as the medical assistance they provide to patients.

Currently, Williams is a *locum tenens* surgeon, meaning that he fills temporary needs at hospitals around the United States. For much of 2012, he worked at a facility in the American Southwest using his experience with intercultural medical missions to meet the health needs of Native Americans.

“I’m one of those people who looks on my entire life as being an opportunity for ministry,” he said. “With the work I do as a follower of Christ, I try to be a good physician serving the Great Physician. I’m trying to love people as being made in the image of God and address their needs as quickly, compassionately and skillfully as possible. Doing this provides an opportunity for me and others to share the gospel with patients and their families. It doesn’t get much better than that.”

**Medicine for the Body and Soul**

Performing Surgery in Kenya
EVERYBODY WINS —
Asbury University junior Chad Warner pitches and then prepares to field a groundball hit by Toyota Bluegrass Miracle League player Dallas Dawsey at the Miracle League Field in Lexington, Ky.

Warner was one of several Asbury baseball and softball team members who volunteered to “buddy” — a system of coaching/mentoring on the field — with the league in October. This is the second-straight season Asbury has volunteered with the TBML, which provides the opportunity for nearly 100 children with special needs in Central Kentucky to play baseball in the fall and spring. This is just one of many ways Asbury student-athletes reach out to the community each year.
As a gift to the community, Asbury University is bringing sand artist Joe Castillo – a recent finalist on “America’s Got Talent” – to Hughes Auditorium in December.

**Next Issue:**
**The Asbury University Cornerstones: Stewardship**

Time, treasure and talents — the concept of stewardship in Christian churches often centers on these three avenues of participation. When the context is Christian education, though, do the same avenues still apply? Where do values such as creation care fit in?

The Ambassador will explore “Stewardship” — with its many facets — in an ongoing series about Asbury University’s Cornerstone values in the Winter issue.