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New Commentary Flows From “Retired” Pen

FAITH IN AN UNFORGIVING CULTURE
Healing Wounds of Spirit and Society

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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 1,600 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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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.

Cover: Capt. Anne Jones ’96, Asbury University Army ROTC Instructor. Cover Photo by: Kyle J. Schroeder
When I think of our Asbury University heritage, the idea of service quickly comes to mind.

One of the pillars of Asbury’s mission is to equip men and women for a lifetime of service to the professions, society, the family and the Church. In fact, we waste no time in making service a priority. When new students arrive at Asbury for orientation, they serve the local community together before their classes even begin.

After graduation, students cover the globe in pursuit of their callings from the Lord, and in every realm of influence, we find Asburians who are giving, often sacrifically, for the good of others.

It is easy to forget how remarkable this is. How human it is to desire comfort, not challenge; quick results rather than perseverance; recognition, not anonymous humility. That a group of people would so consistently choose courage and character over comfort, for more than 120 years, is truly noteworthy.

God supplies the strength that fuels such service. The Christian entrepreneur who provides products and service for a fair price relies on the Lord to guide his decisions, as does the missionary translating the Bible in foreign lands.

Each is able to serve because His promises are eternal, enabling us to work with confidence, knowing that He is with us always.

Jesus’ instructions to love as He loved and lay down our lives for others, are clear. Our world needs people who are trained and equipped, ready to serve: “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” (Matt. 9:37-38).

When we serve from a spiritual place of preparation, passion and calling, the world is changed.

“That a group of people would so consistently choose courage and character over comfort, for more than 120 years, is truly noteworthy.”

The stories in this Ambassador are stories of Asburians, called and ready to serve the waiting world. A heart for Christ unites these Asburians in their various avenues of service, from teaching piano lessons in Africa to leading our military with skill and wisdom.

May we all prove faithful to serve as He calls us, for His glory.

Dr. Sandra C. Gray
President
Visible for miles, the Asbury Theatre and Cinema Performance Program transported a full-house audience to the Caribbean for a few weekends during the Fall musical, “Once On This Island.” A one-act production written by Lynn Ahrens, the script and music tell the story of a young couple who must learn hard lessons about love and sacrifice — themes with profound spiritual implications for Christian believers.

Photos by: Sam Withey ’12

The musical was performed in the Greathouse Theatre, a black-box theatre designed for the Andrew S. Miller Center for Communication Arts. While the audience can appreciate the new lighting system and flexible performance space, the behind-the-scenes facilities for everything from makeup to rehearsal to technical production make a difference, as well. Students and a young cast member from the community took advantage of the new space to shine, on and off the stage.
Established in 2004, the Asbury University Initiative for Student Leadership 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, and other public services in developing countries. The grants are awarded through a competitive application process to juniors, seniors and graduating seniors.

Sarah Finehout ’12

“We have no idea how God uses our day-to-day activities to draw others closer to Himself. Experiences like those I had in Kenya make me reevaluate my life to see what else needs to be held captive in Christ. I am so humbled and honored when God chooses to work through me to affect others, and I pray that, throughout my life, I always remain a conduit, and never a hindrance, of God’s grace.”

Meredith Knowlton ’12

“Uganda is such a giving culture. While there, my love for God’s word was strengthened. I found myself seeing Scripture with fresher eyes and new perspectives. I was challenged by Harriet and Lillian’s hospitality and their love for a complete stranger. How much I have, and often neglect to give? How little they have, and yet gave it away so often. I know the teachings of Jesus. They lived the teachings of Jesus.”

Brandon Reinhardt ’12

“I was surprised that one of the biggest lessons I learned in India came largely from people who don’t even worship the Lord. ...One day while out walking with a friend...
in the countryside, we saw an very old Hindu man carrying water in a bucket on his head. It was in the heat of the day, and while the sun was blazing down, this man was walking back and forth, over and again, from a water source to a tree. This tree looked like any of the others that lined the road, but my friend explained to me that this particular tree was considered “holy” by the Hindus. The old man was working so hard in the hot sun that blood was dripping out of his mouth as he sweated and stumbled down the road to “worship” this tree. … First, I thought, ‘Now, that is ridiculous and silly.’ That ugly thought soon turned into, ‘Wow. He is really devoted to worshipping his god.’ And finally I had to ask myself, ‘How can this man who is worshipping a little tree god be more devoted to worship than I am, when I worship the One, True, Living God?’ That was a sobering thought that still motivates me today.”

James Torrell ’11

“I had always wanted to do medical missions, and this was the first time I’d done anything close to it. I was a little worried before I went to Sierra Leone that I wasn’t really cut out for it, or all my time working in my science classes at Asbury had been for nothing. Because of this trip I realized that I wasn’t crazy, and God really had placed that desire in my heart, both for medicine and for the nations. …There will always be people who are hungry and thirsty, sick and in need of surgery, but I have been called to tell people about the Living Water, the Bread of Life.”

Kirsten Wenger ’11

“Having just graduated from Asbury, I was really asking God how I was ever going to find a community of believers and friends like the ones I had just left behind. God was so faithful to show me that I have brothers and sisters around the world! In Bangkok I lived with several other American, Thai and British missionaries. These men and women were a great reminder that God knows my need for fellowship and community! Our home was so often filled with guitar and keyboard playing and our singing … all beautiful music to our Lord.”

For more information about the Asbury Initiative, visit asbury.edu and look for “Asbury Initiative” within the Student Life menu, or call (859) 858-3511, ext. 2240.
Victor Hamilton taught at Asbury University for 36 years and retired in 2007. Since then he has completed a new commentary, “Exodus: An Exegetical Commentary,” to complement his previously published scholarship on Genesis, the Pentateuch and the historical books of the Old Testament. The Ambassador caught up with the hard-working retiree recently to get his perspective on the Bible, writing and teaching.

Q: Why did you pick Exodus for your latest book?
A: I just thought there was a lot of stuff in Exodus that had not been said. I think I had read every commentary on the book of Exodus that I could get my hands on, and in most cases, I was very illuminated by them. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to each of them. But I still thought there was a lot of juice left in the orange, waiting to be squeezed out.

Q: When you’re working on a project that big, where do you start?
A: This took me four years at an average of about 40 hours a week. Now, that’s not 52 weeks of the year, but it’s probably 40 to 45. And that’s not counting the time my wife, Shirley, did. Here I’m going to embarrass myself, but I’ve never learned to type the way you’re supposed to type. I used to joke with my students, “You’ve got to appreciate the fact that if I send you a 10-line e-mail, then I’ve given you a half hour of my time!”

Anyway, Shirley is a secretary by training, though she’s been a homemaker for 44 of our 46 years of marriage. All that stuff I have written, I’ve written by hand. For that commentary on Genesis, I wrote...
about 1,200 or 1,300 hundred pages on lined paper. Shirley puts it all on the computer for me, and I proof it, and she proofs it, so to that degree everything I’ve written has been a joint project. With her being a homemaker, especially the past few years with our kids having flown the nest to start their own families, we’ve been able to do that more.

“I owe a deep debt of gratitude to each of the commentaries I read on the book of Exodus. But I still thought there was a lot of juice left in the orange, waiting to be squeezed out.”

Q: Did you have any favorite classes to teach?
A: Probably Pentateuch. About three years after I came here, the prof teaching Pentateuch asked if I would be willing to take it over, on the grounds that I not use the textbook. And when I looked at it, I saw why he said that. I couldn’t imagine it being used by anybody.

So that left me without a textbook. So then I contacted guys who taught this kind of class at other Christian colleges, and every one of them answered me back and said there was nothing on the market that was usable. So I said, “Well, I’ll write one, then.”

So I wrote that book, and the first edition came out in 1982. I’d been teaching here about 11 years, and then I rewrote many sections and it came out in a second edition in 2002.

Almost 30 years later, it sells as many copies per year as it did 25 years ago. Semitic languages to use, or they’re so simplistic that everything is surface-y, and they don’t really engage the text.

I think the Lord has given me that ability to hit the middle ground between writing something that will stretch the mind of the intellectually curious and satisfy the appetite of those who want something they can really get their teeth into. I hesitate to use the word ‘practical,’ but for lack of a better word, I’ll use that.

Q: As you think through the study that you’ve done on the Old Testament books, what do you think

Q: Why has yours lasted so long?
A: I wish I knew. Most books like that will last three, maybe five years.

It’s absolutely amazing to me, and it’s absolutely amazing to the publisher. Most books like that will last three, maybe five years.
are some of the most misunderstood concepts?

A: I think that many people, many Christian people, look at the Old Testament as unchristian. But it’s actually pre-Christian.

There’s a world of difference between calling something pre-Christian and calling it unchristian. One of the reasons they think that is because I think they have misread or misunderstood what Paul says about law vs. grace and works vs. faith. They come away with the idea that the Old Testament teaches you’re saved if you keep the law, if you go by the book, if you keep all the rules, but in Jesus there is grace and mercy.

That’s a false dichotomy. I would challenge anybody who suggests the Old Testament teaches that you are saved by works or you are saved by keeping the law, if you keep all the rules, but in Jesus there is grace and mercy.

The Mount, he’s not challenging Moses, he’s challenging the misinterpretation of Moses.

Having said all that, I admit the Old Testament is not the easiest to understand. But I keep reminding my students, and I keep reminding myself, that what you and I call the Old Testament was Jesus’ Bible. It’s the only Bible he knew. It’s the Bible he presumably read, had read to him when he was a child, was nurtured on, partially understood his relationship to his father on the basis of and so forth. At no time did Jesus ever seem to apologize, “This was kind of rough, fellows, but I’ve come to tame it down and smooth out the rough edges.”

I think that most of our students — and this is probably true of any school — come away from Introduction to the Old Testament with a deeper appreciation than they come away from Introduction to the New Testament, simply because they bring a level of acquaintance with the New Testament that they do not bring to the Old Testament.

For instance, right off the bat, I would start discussing creation stories and how we have flood stories in the ancient world that seem remarkably similar to the scripture story. How do you explain the Bible’s similarity to some of these myths, and what is it about the early chapters of Genesis that restrains us from describing them as mythical?

Those are the kind of issues that, understandably, you’re not going to talk about in church, youth group or your Sunday School class, but it’s the kind of thing we can talk about.

“I think many people, many Christians, look at the Old Testament as unchristian. But it’s actually pre-Christian.”

What is it that separates this book from these mythical traditions here? And students really appreciated that. Then you make the transition to “What is it that separates followers of Jesus today from the myths of our culture?” Because the Hebrews had to de-mythologize their culture, you and I have to de-mythologize our culture. And we’d walk through how you do that.

At least in my class the overwhelming majority of students found that kind
Ellen Gray ’12 has been playing basketball since she was 6 years old, and through all those years of conditioning, shooting and practice, the thrill of competition has remained.

“Every time I make a shot, I get goose bumps when I hear it go through the net,” said Gray, who is from Owensboro, Ky. In the 2011-12 season, Gray became the seventh Asbury University women’s basketball player to score 1,000 or more points and she also broke the school record (188) for three-point baskets. Though she certainly noticed the record and climbing the career-scoring chart, she kept her focus on the net during games, talking herself through each and every shot. “It’s all mental,” she said. “As a senior and a captain, I tried to lead by example. I pushed hard, and I tried to push others just as hard, to motivate and encourage myself and the team.”

Last summer, the Spanish education major spent six weeks in Bolivia volunteering in an orphanage and has considered both coaching and teaching overseas after graduation. Regardless of where she ends up, though, she’s certain of one thing. “I’m sure anywhere I go, if there’s a ball and a hoop, I’ll be playing.”

ELLEN GRAY’S 1,000 POINTS
A biology major with a fondness for working in the garden, Asbury University’s Kenton Sena ’12 thought he had met his match in Organic Chemistry his sophomore year. But he persevered, learning hard lessons on how to study and prepare for tests — lessons he would end up needing almost immediately as he launched into Cellular and Molecular Biology and Immunology with Dr. Malinda Stull ’95 the next year.

“Dr. Stull’s classes are some of the most difficult I’ve ever had, but also some of the most rewarding. It’s so significant to battle through hard things and learn and mature as a result rather than just settle for mediocrity. My Asbury experience has definitely taught me that.”

Sena’s Asbury experience has also revealed to him a love for research. He spent a semester researching chemical compounds in green tea and two summers experimenting with switchgrass, a native grass being researched for usage in energy applications. In the future, he hopes to continue to graduate school not only to continue investigating his questions about ecosystems, but also to learn to share his skills and passions.

“I’ve always loved the forest, and I’m interested in studying how human interaction with the forest, particularly mining, can impact plant communities and water quality in that ecosystem,” he said. “Another major part of my long-term vision is to teach college biology. I am passionate about biology, education and Christian formation, and I want to pass on to future generations things we have at this institution.”
For Dr. Sam Riffell ’92, associate professor of wildlife ecology and management at Mississippi State University, conducting biological research is more of a passion than a job.

“I grew up fishing and collecting insects in the hills of Southern Ohio, so I knew from a young age I wanted a vocation that combined my love of creation with my interest in science. Fortunately, that’s what God wanted, too.”

After graduating from Asbury University with a degree in biology, Riffell went to Baylor University for a master’s in environmental studies and Michigan State University for a doctorate in zoology. As a researcher, Riffell’s interest in science — nurtured by Asbury professors John Brushaber, Winston Smith ’50 and Frank Wilbur, in particular — has developed into a long-term focus on finding ways to put conservation of wildlife in greater harmony with human uses of creation.

And as an educator, his focus is on serving his students in many of the same ways his Christian education served him. One of his roles is coordinator of undergraduate studies, and he often incorporates graduate students in his research projects.

“My faith informs my work in two ways,” he said. “My faith is why I pursue ecological work in a spirit of hope, because God values the natural world for its own sake (motivating me to study and stewardship) and will someday redeem it. Second, because we’re created in God’s image, I value opportunities to advise students and provide opportunities to discover their vocations.”

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They cross the stage after lining up with other Asbury students-turned-graduates, minds more on things ahead than things past. A future of self-sacrifice, service, courage and faithfulness stretches out in front of them, along with a collection of questions: Where, exactly, will I serve? How will I adapt into a new culture? Will my training and support network sustain me through hard times? Will the years of work up to this point prove worth the effort? As it turns out, the mission field and the military have a lot in common.

While Asbury University is known for its legacy of missionaries — E. Stanley Jones and Alex ’27 and Hazel Hunley ’27 Reid, among others — it also has a strong, though quieter, legacy of service through the United States Armed Forces. Prior to the mid-1990s, many students came to study after their service was complete; others decided to serve after finishing their degrees. Now, there is a third option: the Reserved Officer’s Training Corps, or ROTC.

The ROTC program began in 1998 under the leadership of retired Army Lt. Col. Ike Adams and retired Air Force Col. Ray Fellows. Both members of the faculty, Adams in the Behavioral Sciences Department and Fellows in the Business, Economics and Political Science Department, the veterans felt both Asbury and the armed forces would benefit from a closer relationship. A proposal in which Army and Air Force ROTC students could take classes at Asbury and train at the University of Kentucky was passed by the faculty assembly.
“There was only one person who voted against it initially,” Adams said. “That person’s concern was how the military fit with the mission of Asbury. When people ask me to reconcile the two, I look to the Biblical stories of the Roman centurion who asked Jesus to come and pray for his servant, and the Roman soldier who sent for Peter.

“The primary purpose of the military these days is not to go take territory and set up empires,” he continued. “The primary purpose is to promote the peace by being strong and defending against tyrants and dictators.”

Training students to be spiritually strong and vigilant against evil had long been a pillar of an Asbury education; the ROTC program made it possible to be educated in a strong defense physically, as well.

Asbury’s Army ROTC instructor, Capt. Anne Jones ’96, has both a military and an Asbury heritage in her blood. Her grandfather, Robert “Fay” Wiley ’25 taught biology and Bible for more than 20 years, beginning a line of Asburians on her mother’s side that has lasted nearly 100 years, and her father’s side has been connected with the institution since the 1970s. Even among her siblings, one brother married into a Marine family, her sister married a Navy EOD diver and another brother serves in the Air Force.

“As I was five, I wanted to do two things: go to Asbury and be an Army nurse,” she said.

Jones made it to Asbury, but in 1992 there was no ROTC program. She graduated in 1996 with an English degree and some education experience, a lot of energy and a certain restlessness. She became a flight attendant after graduation and later worked at the Association of Christian Schools International, an education organization that supports Christian schools around the world. There was still a sense of something missing, though.

It was a coup in Cote d’Ivoire in 2002 that brought her back to the idea of serving in the military. As she watched the events there unfolding every hour via e-mail from her friends at the International Academy in Cote d’Ivoire near Bouake, wishing she could help in ways not accessible to civilians, she kept asking herself, “Will I regret not joining when I’m 50?”

At age 28, Jones (pictured above) signed on the line, packed her bags and headed to Officer Candidate School.
What she has discovered in the years since is that the Army encompasses a world large enough for her passions — networking, coordinating and planning, travel in “adventuresome” locations — with room to grow. After completing her initial eight-year commitment, she opted to continue serving in the Reserves while earning a master’s degree through UK’s Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce. Ultimately, she wants to become a foreign-area officer to use intercultural skills in liaising between the Army and local hosts around the world. In the meantime, teaching ROTC at her alma mater is icing on the cake.

“Nothing I’ve ever done in my life is wasted,” she said. “The things I learned in methods class I’m using now. Creating an operations order is not that different from making a lesson plan. The Lord always presents new opportunities, and you never know when something you’ve learned can help someone.”

‘God put me here’
Cato McKenzie ’12, a math major from Lexington, Ky., was first attracted to the ROTC program because of its scholarship potential. Both Air Force and Army ROTC cadets can receive financial assistance with tuition, and Asbury discounts the cost of room and board for cadets. With several siblings coming along behind him, he knew any scholarship he could attain would make a big difference. As time went on, however, he began to see a higher power at work in his choice to participate in ROTC.

“God put me here,” he said. “At the time, I didn’t know he was doing that — I thought it was about money. But it was his plan.”

McKenzie saw success early in his student career with Air Force ROTC, achieving “Cadet of the Month” and “Cadet of the Semester” his freshman year. He also completed the entire 28.8-mile POW/MIA Run as a freshman. But during his sophomore year in college, McKenzie had a turnaround in his relationship with God in which he realized the success he’d been finding through the ROTC was not entirely his own making.

“The biggest surprise for me is how well I’ve done,” he said. “In high school, I wasn’t a natural leader. I wasn’t the most athletic person, or the most social. But to be a good leader in the program, attitude has a lot to do with it.

“Now, I’m just seeking Him and understanding Him more, and God has been putting me in the right situations and giving me things to say. I don’t know what God is doing with my life, but I think it has to do with the Air Force, and being good at the Air Force.”
The accomplishments McKenzie credits to the Lord’s work in his life are significant. He has been ranked in the top 10 percent of Air Force cadets at UK for the past three years, was ranked first out of 16 Flight Cadet Training Assistants at last summer’s field training and became a Commander in the Arnold Air Society, a competitive service organization for AFROTC cadets, in 2011. He was also selected to be Wing Commander, a position with responsibility for training all 100-plus cadets, for the Spring 2012 semester.

While these noteworthy milestones are celebrated within the program at UK, ROTC cadets sometimes fly under the radar of their fellow Asburians. With less than 10 cadets on campus — and in uniform only one or two days per week — Asbury’s ROTC students inhabit two worlds: a military student culture that glances askew at a Christian college culture that, in many cases, simply does not understand military hierarchy, regulations or measures of success.

McKenzie’s excellence as a cadet gives him a platform to witness to other students in the program at UK. Asbury is one of several schools that participates in the ROTC program there, and while all the cadets are together for one afternoon of class, lab and physical training each week, the cadets at UK have more opportunities to exercise together, get to know each other and prove themselves in the group.

“I would love prayer for how we can witness to the other cadets,” he said. “If the whole military were for the Lord, it would be awesome.”

Williams knew from high school that the chaplaincy was in his future. Like Jones, service in the military was a family tradition, and both his father and grandfather also pastored churches. When a speaker at a pastor’s conference he attended with his father shared about his experiences as a Naval chaplain, “the dots finally connected,” and a call was born.

Through a series of connections with other alumni and students, he and his wife, Kelli Spell ’94 Williams, landed at Asbury determined to take advantage of the opportunity to prepare themselves mentally and spiritually for the future they envisioned. He majored in history (establishing a foundation for future studies on the factors that influence why nations go to war), learned the importance of being
physically prepared to keep up with the Marines and Sailors in his charge to earn their respect and grew even deeper spiritual roots.

"The military is not a place for an infant faith," he said. "You will be faced with tough religious questions, ethical dilemmas and moral relativity, and those asking the questions will not always hold back. You need to develop good apologetics... and a thick hide.

"Asbury is a place where, if you allow it, you will encounter the spirit of God’s grace. I believe the best part of my experience is that the Lord is still building on what I learned at Asbury."

Though Williams graduated from Asbury before the ROTC program was established, his career as a military officer has yielded insight into the strengths each party brings to the table. The military gains leaders who are morally sound, spiritually grounded, well educated and prepared for the challenges they will encounter. Asbury gains another venue of service for its students, a potential enrollment boost as Asbury’s reputation grows in military circles, and opportunity to influence and shape the future military leaders of the country.

“These future leaders will take the lessons and experiences that God has led them through while at Asbury and apply them in leadership roles where life and death decisions are made on a daily basis,” he said. “On any given day in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy alone, more than 50 percent of the forces are deployed or training away from home. The military needs women and men in leadership positions who have the insight and training which Asbury offers through its uniquely Wesleyan-influenced Christian liberal arts approach.”

Love as Commanded

Freshman Matthew Ippolito was looking for a degree in media when he decided to attend Asbury. But after just one semester of ROTC classes, he’s decided to pursue a career in the military. The discipline developed by the every-day tasks such as early-morning fitness training, keeping the uniform in tip-top shape and learning to march in formation is attractive to him, and theologically, Ippolito is at peace with the role he would play as a Christian in the Army.

“How can one love his neighbor as Jesus commanded if he stands back and lets thieves cut his neighbor’s throat?” he asked. “Action is often needed to do good in the world and protect the innocent. Many military values, such as loyalty, devotion, discipline and honor are all biblical values, as well.”

Though the size of Asbury’s family of cadets fluctuates each year, the ROTC program seems to have found a comfortable spot at the dinner table of service opportunities for students. In a student body in which each member puts themselves in a cross-cultural context for educational and spiritual growth, many of the “exotic” aspects of military service such as foreign travel and working closely with people of cultures blend right in.

Ippolito has years of work ahead in the program (the Army requires no commitment from its ROTC students until their junior years). Already, though, the military has become part of his Asbury experience in true liberal arts fashion: challenging him to push himself and keep an open mind.

“I’m surprised how much I’ve learned this quickly,” he said. “There have been many ‘What did I just do?!’ moments, where you step back and realize you just did something you never thought you could. These are the moments you always remember.”

Asbury’s ROTC students train at the University of Kentucky with cadets from institutions throughout Central Kentucky.
**Mission (Farm) Accomplished**

A patch of earth at the Asbury University Equine Center has become a seedbed for both physical and spiritual life through the Mission Farm Project. It began in the Fall as a way for students to learn the information and skills needed to grow wholesome fruits, vegetables and livestock, and to be able to adapt that knowledge to any mission situation to which they are called. A one-credit-hour seminar met weekly to investigate the process of establishing a sustainable farm, including planting and harvesting, soil ecology and food preservation techniques. The Spring’s seminar focused on animal husbandry, and international trips are being researched to offer students the opportunity to tutor children in various subjects, as well as work in an agricultural setting.

**Homecoming 2011**

Alumni, parents and students spent a chilly fall weekend enjoying sports and fellowship during the 2011 Homecoming and Family Celebration. A highlight of the weekend was Saturday’s soccer match against Ohio State-Mansfield, when the Eagles scored a school-record 16 goals in their victory. At halftime, the 2011 Homecoming Court was introduced, and Asbury University President Sandra Gray crowned seniors Stockton Brown and Mark Laufenburger as Homecoming Queen and King.

**Keeping the Peace**

In an unusual move that validates the high standards of Asbury’s Police Mount training program, the U.S. Park Police purchased two Asbury-trained horses to patrol with its Horse Mounted Unit in federal parks. The scope of situations the horses are required to handle calmly includes everything from the affectionate attention of small children to tense crowd management scenarios. Asbury University has already sold several horses to police departments in Lexington and North Carolina. Funds raised from the sales help to sustain the highly-respected training program at the University.
AU in National Rankings
Asbury University has been ranked fifth in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report* in the Regional Colleges South category. Considered by some to be the most influential of several ranking systems, the *U.S. News* rankings are based on two types of information: quantitative measures that serve as indicators of academic quality, and the *U.S. News* education team’s view of what is most important in education. The top 10 schools in Asbury’s category are John Brown, Florida Southern, High Point, Meredith, Asbury, LaGrange, Covenant, Wheeling Jesuit, Milligan and Flagler.

Manchester Wesley Research Centre Partnership
Asbury University has joined eight other institutions in partnership with the Manchester Wesley Research Centre (MWRC) in England to support and promote research in Wesleyan Studies. Based at Nazarene Theological College in Manchester, the MWRC helps to facilitate research access to the extensive collection of British and early Methodist material at the Methodist Archives and Research Centre at The John Rylands University Library of Manchester. Provost Jon Kulaga visited the facilities to explore ways in which Asbury could partner with the MWRC. Asbury University is a temporary home for the Wesley Collection, a body of material which contains more than 800 books and pamphlets from the 18th and 19th centuries. The collection focuses on John and Charles Wesley and the beginnings of Methodism in England and includes many early editions of texts written by the Wesleys.

Adventure Leadership
Beginning with the Fall 2012 semester, Asbury University will offer students a new Adventure Leadership emphasis within the Recreation major in a format designed to maximize the unique opportunities and requirements of the program. Instead of taking one or two Adventure Leadership classes over several years, students will spend one semester during their time at Asbury in the Adventure Leadership Block. The block, a strategic collection of classes and field training exercises, is designed to allow students to spend more time developing technical skills off campus — time that would be difficult to accommodate in the midst of a traditional school semester.

To Haiti, With Love
Representatives from several Asbury University athletic teams — soccer, basketball, golf, tennis, baseball, cheerleading and more — took shifts packing boxes full of food at Southland Christian Church in Nicholasville, Ky., just before Christmas. The Asbury students and coaches volunteering were working alongside Southland and Lifeline Christian Missions in an effort to send more than 1 million boxes of food to Haiti, which was devastated by an earthquake in 2010. In each box there are bags that contain a precise amount of dehydrated vegetables, rice and vitamin powders that become a life-sustaining meal when mixed with boiling water. In addition to the work on Thursday, Asbury University donated several hundred dollars obtained through the KIAC — the athletic conference Asbury participates in — and via fund-raising efforts by individual athletic teams.

Something More in Wilmore
Rev. Stan Key ’75 shared throughout Holiness Emphasis Week in January about the abundant life that is not only available, but also attainable, in Christ, drawing on the Israelites’ path from Egypt to Canaan for insight into the challenges modern believers face. In addition to speaking in Chapel and evening services, Key and his wife, Katy Kinlaw ’75 Key, met with students individually as well as in larger gatherings during a Q&A session Tuesday night. Breaking into
separate groups for men and women, each responded to questions from students on a variety of topics. The Keys served as missionaries for 10 years in France and have led Loudonville Community Church in New York for the past 17 years. Each comes from a strong background of faith — Stan as the son of a pastor and Katy as the daughter of former Asbury President Dennis Kinlaw ’43.

20 years of leadership experience in higher education, most recently as Associate Vice President and Director of Community Relations at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. Wilcoxson has also served as Vice President of Student Affairs at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, where he provided leadership to 17 departments that touched nearly every aspect of student life. Also, Glenn Hamilton ’91 was promoted from Assistant Vice President to Vice President of Operations, a position that includes oversight of the University’s physical plant, campus security and risk management and human resources.

Faith in a Culture of Competition
The spring’s Faith and Culture event, “Faith in a Culture of Competition,” incorporated speakers, workshops, athletic events and presentations, all exploring the ways in which the Christian faith can lead and challenge society’s views on competition. One of the event’s key speakers, former NFL lineman and author Joe Ehrmann, turned the concept of competition on its head by reframing it in such a way that competition becomes a medium for community and growth. With events ranging from Chapel on campus to gatherings in Lexington that drew alumni, business leaders and coaches from around the state, “Faith in a Culture of Competition” directly impacted more than 2,000 people, who can now impact others.

New Art Gallery
Asbury dedicated a new art gallery on the second floor of the Z.T. Johnson building and opened its first show in February, a faculty exhibition titled “New Beginnings.” The newly renovated gallery provides a professional-quality space for the work of faculty, students and local artists. The old gallery space, which retains an adjustable lighting system and other tools, will be used for a class beginning next fall that is geared toward equipping art students in the skills and knowledge of how best to display different types of art work. The art gallery is open anytime the building is in use.

New Year, New Roles
Asbury University announced in January that Dr. Douglas Wilcoxson was hired to fill the position of Vice President of Student Development. Wilcoxson moves into the role formerly held by Dr. Mark Troyer, who became Vice President for Enrollment Management. Wilcoxson comes to Asbury with more than
A WONDERFUL OCCASION

Nearly 1,000 people gathered in Hughes Auditorium around Christmas time as Karolyn Grimes, best known for her role as Zuzu Bailey in “It’s a Wonderful Life,” shared insights and memories from the making of the classic holiday movie.

Grimes treated the audience to a new perspective on the film, pointing out “behind the scenes” details such as bloopers that made it into the final cut, memories of working with actor Jimmy Stewart and “Where are they now?” updates on fellow cast members. Following her presentation, she took questions from the audience and stayed afterward to sign every autograph requested.

When the movie was filmed in 1946, the 6-year-old Grimes was already an experienced performer, having shared the set with such celebrities as Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire in previous films. But when “It’s a Wonderful Life,” was released, its lackluster box-office performance gave no indication that her role would become part of the American cultural landscape. And though Grimes went on to make other movies — she appeared in a total of 16 films in the 1940s and ’50s — her own life path turned out to be dramatically different than she anticipated. Her mother died when Grimes was a young teenager, and her father died in a car accident a year later. The rest of her teen years were spent with relatives in Missouri, far from the Hollywood connections she maintained in California.

It wasn’t until Grimes was an adult that she even saw the complete movie. After director Frank Capra allowed the copyright to “It’s a Wonderful Life” to expire in the ’70s, subsequent play on television helped bring about a renaissance of the film. Its perennial message of hope and second chances became a staple of the holiday season, and sharing that message has become a mission Grimes has adopted whole-heartedly.

Though December was the 65th anniversary of the film’s release, the idea that each person touches other lives in influential ways is as relevant as ever. In fact, Grimes sees this theme at work in everything from Capra’s own life to the lives of today’s college students.

“This movie shows that no matter how bad you feel about yourself,” she said, “and no matter how many times your dreams have not come true, you still matter. I’ve grown more in the past three years than ever before, and I’ve learned my faith will carry me through anything.”

The evening concluded with a showing of “It’s a Wonderful Life,” chuckling with new appreciation of the quirks and sentiment of the actors and characters. As the chimes rang in Asbury’s bell tower, Hughes rang as well with Grimes’ famous line, “Look, Daddy! Teacher says every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings!”
Catch up with your former classmates and find alumni in your area with the 2012 Alumni Directory. Asbury University Alumni Today includes a variety of information about the Asburians who choose to participate, including residence and career information and e-mail address. This is also our first issue where alumni can submit photos and personal messages.

Over the next few months you should receive a request via mail or email to update and verify your Alumni Today directory information.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Asbury University Alumni Today will be published in both print and CD-ROM formats in October 2012 by Harris Connect.

It will be available for purchase exclusively by Asbury alumni on a pre-publication basis only.

Even if it has been years since you last made contact, it will soon be a lot easier for you to reconnect with people you miss.
It’s an old story, but no less powerful for its age.

Joseph, the treasured youngest son of Jacob and Rachel, had ample cause to hate his brothers, and they knew it. They had sold him into slavery, setting in motion a life in Egypt that did ultimately include wealth and influence, but also imprisonment and shame. When their father died, fear rushed in.

They sent word to Joseph, building their plea for mercy on the love he had shared with his father. Joseph wept … and he forgave.

“But Joseph said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.’ And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them’ (Gen. 50:16-21).

Stories of forgiveness — both in the Old Testament and the New — water the soil from which Christian community grows. Joseph’s story joins with David’s, Hosea’s and many others to culminate in Jesus’ petition to his Father to forgive the people who were killing him as he spoke. Perhaps the most Christ-like of virtues, forgiveness is even more compelling compared to the me-at-any-cost orientation of a fallen world.

“As a Christian community, Asbury University is invested in practicing forgiveness well for two reasons,” said Greg Haseloff, associate dean for campus ministries and campus chaplain. “Students come to Asbury to learn to integrate their spiritual, mental, emotional and physical lives, and it is also a witness to the world at large of the radical forgiveness available through Jesus. After we’ve embraced the ‘why’ of forgiveness, the real question lies in the ‘how’ — what does our orthopraxis of forgiveness look like?”

An Asbury University Faith and Culture series event addressed that question through a 10-day focus on forgiveness titled “Faith in an Unforgiving Culture.” Woven through Chapel services, classroom discussions and film screenings were stories of forgiveness geared toward exploring the role of forgiveness in the life of the believer, the church and world.
Dr. Steve Stratton ’82, a former member of Asbury’s faculty, an Asbury parent and current professor of counseling and pastoral care at Asbury Theological Seminary, helped to plan the event and drew on his experiences with Asbury’s students.

“I talked with the Spiritual Life Assistants at Asbury about what are the most common areas where students talk about needing to receive or grant forgiveness,” he said. “They said family and church are the areas of life where we expect safety, and that expectation often makes those hurts seem to be harder to heal. Those situations not only create greater opportunity for hurt; they also result in a shattered view of the world that must be rebuilt.

“I believe that the observations of the SLAs are true,” he continued. “The hope of this event was to create conditions for the whole community to consider forgiveness — to reflect on what it is, what it isn’t and why God considers it so important.”

“When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself.”

The University’s reflection on those questions was explored through a variety of channels: Asbury Theological Seminary professor Virginia Todd Holeman spoke in Chapel about the “fundamentals” of forgiveness.

Students were encouraged to know what forgiveness is not (forgetting, condoning, minimizing or excusing, for example) to better focus on what it is (letting go of anger and the “right” to avenge the wrong).

Acts of Renewal, a husband-and-wife drama team, presented several sketches from the Bible, history and modern life in Chapel to illustrate how forgiveness plays out from different viewpoints. The duo also offered an evening seminar in communication between the sexes.

Ellen Stamps, a nurse and companion to Corrie ten Boom, spoke in Chapel and after a film screening of “The Hiding Place,” encouraging students that all injuries, even those that are large and life-altering, can be forgiven with God’s love.

A series of film screenings with forgiveness themes pushed Asbury students, faculty and staff to think critically about the role of forgiveness in society. The films included “Icyizere: hope,” a documentary about a gathering of survivors and perpetrators of the 1994 Rwandan genocide; “Blood Done Sign My Name,” a feature film centered on the civil rights movement in North Carolina; “The Hiding Place,” the story of Corrie ten Boom and the experiences that led her and her sister Betsie to a German concentration camp for sheltering Jews in World War II; and “The Redemption of General Butt Naked,” a documentary that recounts Liberian warlord Joshua Milton Blahyi’s search for forgiveness.

Asbury’s “Faith in an Unforgiving Culture” event was part of a larger initiative across 16 Christian colleges and universities aiming to encourage forgiveness and spiritual growth within their communities. Since the event, a renewed interest in campus small groups and Bible studies indicates an openness from students to the healing touches of their peers, leaders and Lord.

The screening room in the Miller Center for Communication Arts was filled to capacity for the showing of “The Hiding Place,” a witness to both the film’s popularity and the Asbury community’s hunger for its message of unconquerable love. In the last pages of the book on which the film was based, Corrie ten Boom recounts the struggle she felt when a guard from her concentration camp introduced himself at one of her speaking engagements after the war.

“I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand,” ten Boom wrote. “I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your forgiveness.

“As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me.

“And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world’s healing hinges, but on His. When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself.”
A United Love for Our Mission

You form a world-wide network able to share your love for Asbury with others.

President Sandra Gray began the academic year challenging the campus community to not limit our vision for the future of Asbury University because we are fulfilling the mission that God began more than 120 years ago. Our commitment is excellence in all pursuits: intellectual rigor and spiritual passion; Christ-centered servant leadership; and, global influence and impact. We are free to think creatively knowing that our God has no limits to what He wants to accomplish through our educational ministry.

God has been faithful to bless Asbury University with a transformational year. Our faculty members have served with distinction as educators and mentors. Our students have continued to amaze us with their passion for learning and their willingness to serve wherever God is leading them. We have been blessed in Chapel and special services with the moving of the Holy Spirit in our midst. And we’ve celebrated record enrollment and the creation of new academic programs.

“We are free to think creatively knowing God has no limits to what He wants to accomplish through our educational ministry.”

It seems hard to believe, but in a few short weeks we’ll conclude our year as we confer associates, bachelors and masters degrees to another class of graduating seniors. The impact our students are having on the world and their vision for the future is inspiring.

I am also reminded that it takes the entire Asbury community to accomplish our mission, and I am thankful for the faithful and generous support we receive from our alumni, parents and friends. It is from our united love for our mission and students that I ask for your continued partnership.

You form a world-wide network of recruiters who can share your love for Asbury with potential students and their families. Encourage them to visit campus and to learn more about us on our Web site at asbury.edu/admissions.

Please prayerfully consider investing in the lives of our students by making a gift. You can use the reply envelope enclosed in the magazine or you can make a secure gift online at asbury.edu/giving. Your support at this time is strategic because it provides the financial resources essential to keep tuition affordable, the academic programs current, spiritual growth opportunities plentiful, and campus facilities updated.

Thank you for partnering with us.

R. Gregory Swanson, JD ’78
Vice President for Institutional Advancement & General Counsel
Grand Gesture

Friend of Asbury Offers A Unique Gift for the School of Arts and Sciences

Music majors studying piano at Asbury have a new opportunity to take their playing to a higher level, thanks to Mrs. Eda Jameson and her generous donation of a Fazioli grand piano to the institution this school year.

Crafted in a single factory in Italy, Fazioli Pianoforti pianos are featured in competitions and concert halls around the world. The company was founded by Paolo Fazioli, an engineer and pianist, who drew on scientific and technological expertise, as well as musical training, to develop the instrument. Only about 100 Fazioli pianos are produced each year.

“Our Fazioli grand is notably outstanding,” said Dr. Don Zent, director of keyboard studies at Asbury. “Its beautiful, clear, consistent tone is immediately evident, and its precise, responsive action allows the performer freedom of expression. We are certainly grateful for the generous gift of our beautiful Fazioli!”
Finding The Alumni Connection Nearest You

Meet the Alumni Board
Asbury’s Alumni Board is an advisory group that has offered ideas, wisdom and counsel to the University leadership since 1909. Each year, seven new members join to serve a three-year term and help on one of five committees: nominations, special events, student recruitment, advancement and awards. They are nominated via a form on Asbury’s Web site - asbury.edu/alumni - or by letter to the Alumni Relations office.

Twice a year, a certain group of people gather from the far corners of the United States at Asbury University. This group is bigger than a basketball team but smaller than a football team and includes professions ranging from teacher to lawyer to analyst.

(Row 1) Valerie Murphy ’80 Hammerlee, Jeannie Corbitt ’76 Jones, Chris Holz ’69 Goodier, Stephanie Gehring ’94, Kirsten Lindgren ’91, Andrea Gyertson ’95 Nasfell; (Row 2) Anna Booth ’83 McEwan, Alan Moulton ’60, Carolyn Ridley ’81, Tim Mowery ’68, Larry Green ’71, John Schmid ’77, Rebecca Wallace ’12; (Row 3) Kay Burrus ’82 Hayden, Tim Baker ’88, Bill Pinto ’91, Beth Zigler ’73 Miller, Jessie Lois Amstutz ’69 Webster, Dawn Ford ’78 Veazey, Jana Van Tatenhove ’86 Baldwin; (Row 4) Gene Tate ’87, Andrew Coleman ’98, Scott Poynter ’64, John Needham ’73, Chuck Engelhardt ’82; (Not pictured) Austin Powell ’11, Jeremy Corbett ’01, Mary Jim Fuller ’53 Luce, David Penalva ’78
The local chapters will be open to all Asbury University alumni, parents and friends, and though they will share a common structure, each chapter will reflect the unique qualities of its location. “Each area is going to have a chapter president,” said Ridley, “and there will also be someone to help with recruiting efforts and others who enjoy planning activities. We really want our alumni to know who the other Asburians are in their community.”

If you are interested in learning more about serving on the Alumni Board, or to find out more about the local alumni chapters, please call the Alumni Relations office at (859) 858-3511, ext. 2167, or e-mail alumni@asbury.edu.

By accepting a nomination to serve, each board member is volunteering to connect the University and his or her sphere of influence.

Having a diversity of professions, locations and class years on the board helps maintain a healthy balance of perspectives for tasks such as recommending Reunion speakers or awarding scholarships.

Local Chapters
One exciting project that the alumni board has been working on recently is the establishment of local Asbury University alumni chapters.

The chapters will provide structure and information resources to groups of alumni who want to maintain or strengthen their connection to the University and its students.

“As we focus on organizing local Asbury University alumni chapters, I’m thankful for how many people are volunteering,” said Carolyn Ridley ’81, Director of Alumni Relations and the Parent Program. “The challenge we’ll have is to keep pace with our alumni as cities come online. There’s great enthusiasm out there for what this program can become.”

The first chapters are planned for Atlanta, the Washington, D.C. area and Central Florida.

Throughout the course of a year, each alumni chapter will be responsible for coordinating events such as social gatherings, an administration or faculty visit, a student group visit and recruiting students for both the graduate and undergraduate programs at the University.

The local chapters will be open to all Asbury University alumni, parents and friends, and though they will share a common structure, each chapter will reflect the unique qualities of its location.

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Asbury University History Department Professor Burnam Reynolds ’70 has written Columbanus: Light on the Early Middle Ages, an entry in Longman’s Library of World Biography under the general editorship of the historian Peter Stearns.

The book deals with the life and impact of Columbanus (543-615 AD), who greatly influenced the growth of medieval monasticism, notions of repeatable penance, issues of Church/state relations and the overall cultural blending of post-Roman society with the newly settled barbarian peoples. In fact, much of what Thomas Cahill wrote in his How the Irish Saved Civilization is tied up in the life’s work of Columbanus.

1960s

Alan Garfield ’64, retired high school teacher, has been actively involved at Unity Church of Bonita Springs, Fla., where he frequently preaches, teaches classes and has now become president of the Board of Trustees.

Eleanor Porter ’62 Pershing and Jerry Jo Voris ’65 Burkman (above) served at Africa University (AU) in fall 2011 and met with Dr. John Wesley Kurewa ’65, first vice chancellor of AU. Eleanor and Jerry Jo were part of the first delegation to AU (in Zimbabwe) from the new Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Jack Howard ’69 retired after 40 years of ministry in the South Jersey conference of the United Methodist Church. His wife, Linda Storey ’72 Howard, is also retired from education. Jack was recently elected president of the Malaga Camp Meeting (Aug. 4-18, 2012) and will also serve as summer pastor for Strathmere United Methodist Church in New Jersey. Jack and Linda live at 72 Sea Fern Dr., Leesburg, FL 34788. Phone - (609) 408-5630.

1970s

Sue Miller ’72 Swanson is the World President of Women’s Ministries for the Salvation Army and is based at the world headquarters in London.

Steve Blakemore ’79 has released a CD titled “Simply Worship” available through iTunes. Listen in at youtube.com/watch?v=0oDUn9dB5gs.

1990s

Rachel Ward ’90 Hull is Elementary Coordinator for the West Virginia Department of Education. In 2011 she spent 10 days in New Dehli, Agra and Jaipur, India, as teacher participant in the Davis and Elkins College Teacher Institute.

Mark and Sarah Sloan ’97 Rickerd joyfully announce the arrival of their Haitian daughters, Katherine Nerlande, 5, and Elizabeth Shilove, 3, on Oct. 6, 2011. They were welcomed home by big brothers Samuel, 10, and William, 8. To see photos and read about the family’s adoption journey: darlingkateandelliedear.blogspot.com.

Rebekah (Becky) Shaw ’97 has opened a music studio in Nicholasville, Ky., and recently released her first CD titled A Journey of Hymns. Becky was a music composition major at Asbury. Visit shawpianostudio.com for more information.

Billy ’02 and Joanna Neff ’02 Coppedge announce the arrival of twin daughters, Sophia Anne and Chloe Catherine, born October 18 in Lexington, Ky. Proud grandparents are Al ’65 and Beth Kinlaw ’69 Coppedge and great grandpa is Dennis Kinlaw ’43.

Mark ’02 and Rose Gresser ’02 Evans announce the birth of Lydia Rose on July 7, 2010. She joins big brother James. Mark teaches Lego Robotics at Jessie Clark Middle School in Lexington, Ky., and Rose serves as Assistant Minister of Music at Wilmore Free Methodist Church.

Erin Ward ’02 accepted at position at GIANT Impact in Atlanta, Ga., as the Host Manager for the Chick-fil-A Leadercast. giantimpact.com, chick-fil-aleadercast.com.

Patrick ’02 and Rachel Winslow Whipple announce the birth of Joshua Patrick on Sept. 19, 2011, in Elizabeth City, N.C.

Marquis Harris ’03 has a blog of original poems and song lyrics titled Grains of Grace. grainsofgrace, dinstudio.com.

Mark and Lori Baker ’03 Jones announce the birth of John Mark on Sept. 11, 2011. Big sister Claire welcomes the challenge.

Michael Peters ’03 is a teacher in East Asia.


Justin ’04 and Jessica McKelvey ’05 Meeker announce the arrival of Caleb Samuel on March 5, 2012.

Brian ’04 and Megan Reed ’06 Sprinkle announce the birth of Samuel Joseph Sprinkle on Oct. 2, 2011, in Lexington, Ky. Proud grandparents are Jim and Beth Luce ’80 Reed.


Dan ’05 and Amy Myers ’05 Duncan served in Haiti with Victory Christian Church from Tulsa, Okla. from July 13-18, 2011. They helped run Kids’ Clubs at orphanages and at Hope Village, a second-chance housing project for people affected by the earthquake. They also assisted with construction projects.

Clayton ’04 and Caress Freed ’03 Wesley along with children Madison, 3, and Micah, 1, have recently moved to Lexington, Ky. Caress completed her residency in Family Medicine and now works at ClubMD at Hamburg.

Rebekah Surface ’05 married Jeremy Dunlap on April 2, 2011, and lives in Winchester, Va.
Henrietta Griffith ‘45 marked her 60th year of service at Kentucky Mountain Bible College in 2011. Acknowledged by her students and peers as a woman of faith and committed educator, Griffith began teaching classes in Bible, Christian Education and Systematic Theology in 1951. Kentucky Mountain Bible College was founded as the Kentucky Mountain Bible Institute in 1931 by Asbury alumnae Lela G. McConnell and Martha Archer, and from its beginning, employees of the institution drew on the support of church and individual donors.

“It has been an inspiring thing that they choose to follow God’s calling on their lives to come to the foothills of Appalachia and teach, preach and prepare young people to fulfill their own callings in life,” said Jeff Snyder, who graduated from KMBI in 2000.

Snyder, a second-generation KMBI student, fondly remembers “Miss Griff’s” formidable ping-pong skills and enthusiastic support for the county high-school football team. Her legacy in the classroom, however, has been an ability to speak to intellectual concepts in a real-world context of faith.

“The best way I can describe her method and style of teaching is shifting gears on a car,” Snyder said. “She would start out by getting into the text or lesson, and she would stay in teaching gear for most of the class. Toward the end, she would switch to preaching gear by telling us how and where to apply the lesson study. Her third gear was the best: she would many times testify to the application of the scripture in her own life. Often we could see tears run down her face as she would speak of the faithfulness of God over the years.”

Griffith attended the College of South Jersey before graduating from Asbury University with a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and Religion in 1945, and she finished her master’s degree in Christian Education from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1950.

Kevin ‘05 and Janelle Hilbert ‘05 Walker announce the arrival of Jackson Richard, born April 13, 2011. Proud grandparents are Richard ‘97 and Brenda Hilbert and Asbury Professor Doug and Marilyn Walker.

Nathaniel ‘06 and Rachel Irvin ‘06 Reynolds welcomed daughter Esther Serenity to their family on Aug. 18, 2011.

Mark Speakman ‘06 is on staff at Church of the Redeemer in Gaithersburg, Md., in Technical Ministries.


Adam David Garringer ’09 and Courtney Brooke Ripato ’10 were married on April 16, 2011, in Wilmore, Ky., and live in Lebanon, Ohio.

Colin Reed ’09 has joined the staff of Kingdom Building Ministries Base Camp in Denver, Colo.

Morgan Schutters ’09 is anchor of “Today In Amarillo” morning show and a reporter at KAMR-NBC4 in Amarillo, Texas.

Scott Landerholm ’10 and Savannah Nisbett ’11 were married on Aug. 13, 2011, in Pine Bluff, Ark. For the first three months of their marriage, they served with World Gospel Mission in Honduras and are now in Galway, Ireland, with the coffee and cafe ministry An Tobar Nua for several months.

Austin Berry ’11 is TV Producer and Editor at Christ Fellowship in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Tyler Hoff ’11 is Video Producer and Editor at Christ Fellowship in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Lindsay Waiksnoris ’11 and Silverio Sanchez were married on May 21, 2011, and live in Baytown, Texas.

Logan Dennison ’12 and Mea Parker ’12 participated in a juried art exhibit in Richmond, Va., on Oct. 21, 2011.

Carolyn and Jason Clayton announce the arrival of daughter Seryn Annelise on Oct. 25, 2011. Jason is the Director of Asbury University’s Center for Career & Calling. He would love to connect with any alumni who may have internship opportunities for AU students. Jason.Clayton@asbury.edu

Asbury University English Professor Shawnee Fleenor and her husband Rob recently added daughters Aubrey Hua Li, 8, and Amber Ai Chun, 14, to their family from Southern China. They join siblings Katie Chau En, 4, and Logan Wei Ming, 2, both adopted from Taiwan.
In Memoriam

alumni

Grace Morgan ’33 Brown, Education, 9/10/2011, Weaverville, N.C.


Doris Cary ’37, 3/10/2011, Nursing, Theodosia, Mo.

Ava Pierson ’37 Falkenberg, Education, 10/7/2011, Pasadena, Calif.


Samuel Emerick ’38, Ministry, 1/13/2012, Port Charlotte, Fla.


Marian Koontz ’39 Romich, Education, 8/10/2011, Creston, Ohio

Herbert Byrne ’40, Ministry, 8/5/2011, Wilmore, Ky.

Helen Dean ’40 Hankinson, Education, 9/18/2011, Richmond, Ind.

Cora Hughes ’40 Schoonover, Education, 7/24/2011, South Charleston, W.V.

Catherine Royster ’41, Education, 1/9/2012, Henderson, Ky.


Dennis Scarborough ’44, Business, 8/1/2011, Bel Air, Md.

Marie Moore ’45 Stephens, Ministry, 10/13/2011, Charlotte, N.C.


Doris Stubblefield ’46 King, Education, 8/14/2011, Carmel, Ind.

A. Eugene Clark ’46, Ministry, 10/11/2011, Findlay, Ohio


Joseph Dizon ’47, Ministry, 2/4/2012, Kailua, Hawaii


Bette Irwin ’48 Kelly, 12/30/2011, La Jolla, Calif.


David Becker ’49, Medicine, 2/6/2012, Asheville, N.C.


Ernest Murphy ’50, Ministry, 9/27/2011, Navarre, Ohio

Mary Sutton ’50 Odom, 12/25/2011, Nashville, Tenn.

Peggy Brown ’51 Butler, 3/30/2011, Barberton, Ohio


William Thiellking ’51, Ministry, 11/26/2011, Millville, N.J.

Helen Bartlett ’52, Education, 1/3/2012, Elizabethtown, Ky.

Norman Brom ’52, Ministry, 11/29/2011, Xenia, Ohio
In Memoriam

Z. Ann Fehrman ’52 Liddle, Missions, 10/19/2011, Miami Shores, Fla.

Norman McCoy ’52, Musician, 10/17/2011, Warsaw, Ohio

Julian Tracy ’52, Education, 10/10/2011, Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Joyce Warner ’52, Education, 9/13/2011, Honolulu, Hawaii


Virginia Clymer ’54 Tipsword, Homemaker, 4/20/2011, Galesburg, Ill.

Mary Cox ’54 Poynter, Education, 1/29/2012, Whiteland, Ind.


Elizabeth “Betty” Cox ’58, Education, 10/29/2011, Columbus, Neb.

David Hardy ’58, Ministry, 10/29/2011, Louisburg, Kan.

William Rudd ’58, Ministry, 1/22/2012, Clinton, N.C.

Seldon Short ’58, Ministry, 8/8/2011, Jeffersonville, Ky.


Harold Wright ’58, Engineering, 9/12/2011, Strongsville, Ohio


Adolfo Tijerina ’60, 5/27/2011, Alice, Texas

Victor Wong ’60, Engineering, 3/11/2011, Terrace Park, Ohio


Edna Jackson ’61 Samuels, 1/20/2012, Tacoma, Wash.


Thomas Standard ’70, Pharmacy, 10/10/2011, Council Bluffs, Iowa


Mary Ann Schroeder ’75, Engineering, 4/23/2011, Dayton, Ohio

Michael Bologna ’78, Social Work, 9/2/2011, Greenhills, Ohio

Gregory Pacheco ’79, 12/9/2011, Seymour, Ind.


Patricia Davis ’86 Klaes, Ministry, 5/14/2011, Millersville, Md.

David Patrick ’88, Ministry, 8/22/2011, Lebanon, Ind.

Ralph Irvin ’89, Education, 8/16/2011, Ocala, Fla.


Friends

E.M. Calloway, 2/15/2011, Panama City, Fla.


Helen Purcell, 7/17/2011, Calhoun, Ga.


Ray Wilson, 2/9/2011, Fairview Heights, Ill.

Thorp Wolford, 2/9/2012, Louisville, Ky.


Alden Wyse, 12/24/2011, Clewiston, Fla.
IN HIS HANDS — First using a chain saw, then a hammer and chisel for detail, Carlos Velasquez turned a discarded stump of wood into art. As he worked throughout a week on the Asbury University campus, the wood became a metaphor for his life’s story... of God’s beauty revealing itself through brokenness. Velasquez’s hands once held tools far more sinister than a chisel. In his native Colombia, as a teenager, his life was led by drugs and alcohol. After being sent to prison, he was introduced to God and — through the ministry of a missionary in Medellin (Asbury graduate Jeannine Brabon ’71) — he learned about true forgiveness. He now pastors a church in Colombia. He spent some time in Wilmore with Brabon recently, and his art is showcased in the Z.T. Johnson building.
Next Issue:
Dr. Duk Lee, “Beauty and Creativity in Science and Math”

An associate professor of mathematics, Lee first started origami as a tool to teach mathematics at Asbury University. “Origami has a long history and is a very familiar term to many, yet too little is known to the public,” he said. “It is not an easy children’s hobby, rather it is a serious art and science.” While he is fascinated by the coexistence of artistic beauty and scientific creativity, he is also a talented local artist, scientist and educator who promotes origami throughout Kentucky.

Upcoming Events 2012

April 13-14  Jym Jamboree, Luce Center
April 19-21  Spring Access Days**
April 19-21  Engaging Culture Weekend
April 19  American Teacher Documentary, Miller Center Screening Room
April 19  Sounds of Stage & Screen Concert, Hughes Auditorium
April 19 & 20  Steel Magnolias, Greathouse Theater/Miller Center
April 21  Highbridge Film Festival, Hughes
April 27  Senior Chapel, Hughes
May 2-4  Zealous Class Senior Retreat
May 4  Baccalaureate - guest speaker Rev. Jon Tellifero
May 4  Commencement – guest speaker Kay Cole James
May 4  Chick-fil-A Leadercast (Asbury Theological Seminary)
May 14 – June 7  Summer Session One (Wilmore Campus)
May 11  Lexington Legends Faith & Family Night (plus concert)
May 14-27  Art Department: France Trip
May 17 – 26  Music Department: Chorale Tour to Italy
  • Florence- Concert at Church of St. Mark in Florence (5/18)
  • Rome- Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica (5/20)
  • Rome- Concert at St. Ignatius (5/22)
  • Palestrina- Concert at St. Agapito (5/25)
May 21  Anthony Futerman Symposium, Hughes
May 28  Memorial Day Offices Closed
June 15-17  Reunion 2012- Stories to Tell*
June 20-23  Ichthus 2012 — ichthusfestival.org
July 14  Asbury Day at Indian Springs Camp, Flovilla, Ga.
July 14  Lexington Legends Faith & Family Night (plus fireworks)
July 27  Asbury Day at Hollow Rock Camp, Toronto, Ohio

Planning ahead Homecoming 2012 — October 26-27
with Alumni Soccer Reunion

*Contact the Alumni Office for information
**Contact the Admissions Office for Information