



A Message from the Dean

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As teachers and scholars in the traditional liberal arts fields, faculty members from Asbury's College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences are always intrigued by debates that rage inside and outside the academy about the state of our disciplines. Numerous articles have appeared in recent years, arguing that the decline in humanities and social science majors at American

Universities is due to the political and theoretical radicalism that affects several of these disciplines, as well as the increasingly narrow scope of scholarship in most academic fields. Others argue that any "decline" is due primarily to our decades-long national push for universities to produce job ready graduates prepared in very specific work categories, rather than liberal arts majors capable of moving in multiple professional directions. The latest entry into these broader reflections is a piece by Adam Kirsch in a late April issue of the Wall Street Journal (April 29, 2019). Kirsch avers that the health of the humanities should not be inferred by the number of majors graduating in these fields, or the nature of scholarship coming out of university departments, but by how well society as a whole embraces literary and intellectual culture. There he sees little reason for worry, as the sales of print, electronic, and audio books across a host of fields remains strong, and as the public's thirst for new music, art, and story-telling in all its various forms attests.

While we are glad to see such matters garnering public attention, the Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences faculty at Asbury wish to assure alumni and friends that the liberal arts remain a vital part of our intellectual and spiritual mission, and that we pursue instruction in these fields without the taint of radicalism present in some institutions. Though the University has added numerous pre-professional programs in the last 20 years or so, and will continue moving in this direction, we are pleased to report that the percentage of students majoring, double majoring or minoring in our disciplines remains high, our foundations curriculum remains strong and our hopes for continuing these trends are bright. We invite you, our alumni, to join in the ongoing effort to support wide-ranging liberal arts study to prepare students for an ever-changing professional and cultural environment at home and abroad.

We look forward to an exciting fall 2019 semester.

Engaging Culture Weekend 2019

This year's event put a special emphasis on the spiritual aspects of the arts — focusing on how humans are wired to dream, create and inspire. The weekend began with the Sounds of Stage and Screen concert on Thursday, with performances by the Asbury Women's Choir, Men's Glee Club, Concert Band, Handbell Choir, Chorale and Orchestra. The show featured selections from popular films such as "The Avengers," "The Greatest Showman" and others. Art exhibits from senior art majors Kate Harris '19, Stephen Kayser '19, Austin Zweifel '19 and Christine Greenwell '19 were also available for viewing throughout the weekend with works ranging from abstractionism to impressionism.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Martha "Stockton" Brown '12



Stockton Brown, a 2012 graduate of Asbury, is the Law Clerk to United States District Judge Malcolm J. Howard for the Eastern District of North Carolina. In this position, she daily builds on her Asbury experiences. "I learned to stay rooted in Scripture with community at Asbury," Brown said. "This 'in' and 'with' has been essential in my life and work since graduation. We can only walk in 'Holiness Unto the Lord' when we are loving our brothers and sisters in Christ alongside us. Learning this valuable lesson at Asbury has been essential in continuing to grow in Christ after graduation." Integrating her faith and the law happens at ordinary moments. There are daily opportunities to seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly (Micah 6:8). When asked what developments in the field of law she is excited about, Stockton responds that "each new case in the federal court brings great joy, as it is an opportunity to be a part of the process that seeks to promote justice and rule of law in our country."

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Asburians on the Hill

Dr. Steve Clements '83 and 12 students traveled to Washington, D.C. to explore the nation's capital city, discuss policy and meet with a variety of high-profile politicians, leaders and world-changers while attending the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) Christian Student Leadership Conference (CSLC). Former Asbury President Sandra C. Gray was also in D.C., attending the 2019 Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) Presidents Conference and joining Asbury students for several activities, including a few congressional visits and a trip to see several local alumni. Students were particularly excited about meeting with Congressman Brett Guthrie and Congressman Jody Hice '82.

Profs Chosen for Lilly Fellows Program

Asbury University faculty demonstrate the University's commitment to academic excellence and spiritual vitality both in the classroom and in their individual academic endeavors. Faculty members Dr. Daniel Strait and Dr. Ben Brammell are two recent examples of Asbury excellence, having been selected to participate in the highly competitive Lilly Faculty Fellows Program. The purpose of the program is for mid-career faculty leaders across the disciplines to examine the intersections of the Christian faith and the academic vocation.

For more information about the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, visit:

asbury.edu/arts

For upcoming events, visit:

asbury.edu/calendar

To update your contact information

or to share a class note, please contact the Alumni Office:

alumni@asbury.edu



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:
Dr. Paul Nesselrode '89

Dr. Paul Nesselrode graduated from Asbury in 1989 with a degree in Chemistry Education, going on to pursue his M.A. and Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of Louisville. He began teaching at Asbury in 2002 and is now the Psychology Department Chair. His statistics textbook has recently been published by Wiley & Sons. He is especially interested in "the intersection between the ideas, theories and assumptions of the social sciences and the Christian idea of inherent human value" and appreciates the freedom he

experiences at Asbury to pursue ideas that secular institutions often dismiss out-of-hand. He says that prayer support is extremely important for students and that if anyone wishes to make a personal prayer connection with a Psychology student, he would be happy to facilitate a connection. Specifically, he says Psychology students need more opportunities and funding for research and internships. Nesselrode leads an annual Human Dignity Tour of Central Europe, a study abroad experience that examines the Holocaust. Both current students and alumni are welcomed to participate. Nesselrode is married to Cheryl Barker '88 Nesselrode and they have three children: Andrew '19, Sarah '20, and Lisa '23.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
Kayla Beebout '20

Kayla Beebout is a rising senior who is pursuing a degree in English. During her time at Asbury, Kayla has developed meaningful relationships with her peers and professors, growing as a believer who is learning to incorporate her faith into her studies and vocation. She loves literature and is excited to pursue graduate school upon graduation and work towards a Master's degree and Ph.D. in English. She has a dream of becoming a J.R.R. Tolkien scholar, aspiring to teach at the collegiate level about this influential author. With a paper recently published in the Journal of Tolkien Research ("'Few Have Gained Such a Victory': A Defense of Boromir in *The Lord of the Rings*"), Kayla is well on her way. She requests that alumni pray for peace in transition, as well as guidance for her as she applies for graduate school and studies abroad at the University of Oxford this fall.

Excellence at Oxford

Creative Writing major Courtney Cox '19 was awarded the de Jager prize for outstanding academic performance during a semester abroad at the University of Oxford in England. Cox participated in the Scholars' Semester in Oxford, a program of Scholarship & Christianity in Oxford (SCIO). Cox, who serves as an editor of the Asbury Review, won the award for musicology essays she wrote in a British History and Culture course during the SCIO semester.