



A Message from the Dean

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As we start the 2019-20 school year, we celebrate all of our recent graduates from the School of Education. As they travel to places near and far, we pray they are able to impact the world through the individual relationships they develop with all of their students. Our undergraduate degrees, adult degree-completion program, graduate degrees and principal

licensure certifications allow Asbury to prepare students to serve in all areas of the educational system. This year we have dozens of graduates who, during their time as Asbury students, have participated in experiences such as our senior trip to Knott County, Ky. to serve in rural Appalachian schools. Our students hosted a gifted and talented day for local 5th graders on campus, and completed student teaching in foreign locations such as Australia and Paraguay, as well as in multiple school districts across the state of Kentucky. At our Spring Teacher Educators Leading and Learning (T.E.L.L.) banquet, the School of Education awarded the first *Bonnie J. Banker Endowed Scholarship* to Kamry Wells '20 (Elementary Education) and the second *Rita J. Pritchett Endowed Scholarship* to Fionn McCartan '20 (Elementary Education). We look forward to financially assisting these students as they pursue their degrees to become educators. We are thankful for our alumni who are serving throughout the world. We offer prayers of thanksgiving for the influence you have on children's lives. Thank you for supporting the School of Education with your prayers and your gifts. Blessings.

APS Ed Major Chosen as PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion

Tara Haynes '19, an Adult Professional Studies student, was named Kentucky's PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion after being nominated by Kentucky Educational Television (KET). Haynes works at Pine Mountain Settlement School in Bledsoe of Harlan County, Ky. The school first opened in 1913 and has served as a boarding school, public school and, most recently, as an environmental and cultural center. Haynes works as an environmental educator and Little School coordinator. The Little School is a kindergarten readiness program that offers free early childhood education to children up to 5 years old and their parents. A working mother of two, Haynes chose to get her bachelor's degree through Asbury's APS Elementary Education program for the flexibility it offered her. She said, "I was sure that Asbury was where I needed to be."



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Debbie Mays '92,
MA '10, Ed.S. '16



Debbie Giddens Mays graduated with a B.A. in Elementary Education, earning her M.A. and Ed.S. from Asbury in 2010 and 2016, respectively. Debbie currently works as the Preschool Disabilities Consultant for the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative in Kentucky. When asked about the most important thing she learned at Asbury, she talked about her first education class, where she was exposed to PL 94-142. Public Law 94-142 guarantees students with disabilities appropriate public education and helps their families to find those opportunities. This class started her on a path of investing in students and families in a deep and meaningful way. Mays says it's easy to integrate faith in her workplace: "One can show the students (and families) the love of Christ by taking time to listen, to understand needs, to meet them where they are and demonstrate grace." She says that her experiences at Asbury as an undergraduate and graduate student were very different, but that her time here shaped her into a "willing perpetual student."

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Kamry Wells '20 was awarded the new Bonnie Banker Endowed Scholarship during the Teacher Educators Leading and Learning (TELL) Banquet at the end of the spring semester.

Education Seniors Recognized for Excellence

School of Education Outstanding Seniors were honored during Asbury's Honors Convocation Chapel at the end of the spring semester. These included:

- Elementary Education:
Noel Endicott '19
- Secondary Education:
Drew Cooney '19
- P-12 Education:
Tinson Lam '19
- APS Elementary Education:
Tracey Gossage '19

For more information about the School of Education, visit asbury.edu/education

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. Gera Nelson

Dr. Gera Nelson (above, right) started her teaching career at Asbury this past spring. She received her Ed.D. from Georgia Southern University, focusing on curriculum and instruction in literacy, and previously taught at Lindsey Wilson College. She said that she feels like she belongs at Asbury, and that she loves that "the school is built on Christian values, in which it presents an incredible commitment to diversity and inclusiveness." Nelson is excited about Asbury's work to improve curriculum for Education students, focusing on readying them to engage with their own students. When asked what her students need, she replied, "Our students need committed, caring mentors and access to relevant, research-based practices. In addition, our students need prayers for God's guidance and enlightenment as they prepare to go into the field of teaching."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
Fionn McCartan '20

McCartan is a senior with an Elementary Education major and an emphasis in English as a Second Language (ESL) Education. An international student from Ireland, Fionn heard about Asbury through his older brother. He knew that he wanted an education rooted in authenticity and found this commitment at Asbury. He was recently awarded the Rita Pritchett Memorial Endowed Scholarship for his excellence in education. After graduation, Fionn plans to pursue a teaching position in Kentucky so he can continue living in the U.S. His greatest prayer concern is the reassurance that he is on the right career and life path.