



A Note from Dr. Jim Owens '79

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What an incredible semester we had, despite the virus pandemic!

Let me start at the beginning...

A few days into January, before the semester even began, a group of Asbury students and faculty flew to Switzerland to work for three weeks with young Olympic athletes, teaching them how to visually tell their stories. We gave them instructions about scripting and shooting, gave them cameras and then worked through the editing process...resulting in multiple videos being shown worldwide on the Olympic Channel. The broadcast division of the International Olympic Committee covered all of our student's expenses.

A few days after getting back to the U.S., the day before the Oscar Awards, a group of students and faculty flew to Los Angeles to participate in two different workshops that featured a total of 16 Oscar Award nominees. Our students had the opportunity to participate in the workshops and then talk with the nominees. It was an incredible opportunity for our film students.

Speaking of awards this year, two of our graduates worked on Oscar-winning films: one as an assistant to the producer on *Bombshell* and the other worked on visual effects on *Avengers: Endgame*. Another grad mixed the audio for the Grammy Award-winning song "God Only Knows" by Dolly Parton and For King & Country. The video can be seen on YouTube. A non-award, but exciting news, is that *Variety* magazine announced a couple of months ago that one of our alums has sold a script to Paramount Studios and Ron Howard has been hired to direct it.

While the virus upended many of our plans for the semester, our students adapted to new technology at an amazing pace. Television students used cutting-edge technology to create multiple camera television productions from home, collaborating with their family and friends, including class members who are currently in other countries. It has been incredible to see students adapt to new ways of creating stories using technology that did not exist a year ago. The pandemic also radically changed our Olympic plans with the 2020 Tokyo Olympics being postponed until the summer of 2021. The Olympic Committee hired 100 students from Asbury to work in paid professional broadcast staff positions at the Games. Thankfully, they are extending all of our student's contracts so that they can still work at the Olympics in 2021. The Olympics pays for flights, hotels and a day rate during the Olympics for all of our students. Asbury is the only school outside of Japan to be invited to work at every Olympics to work on the broadcast.

We have been blessed with so many opportunities being presented to our students and alumni. We continue to plan for this coming summer and fall, looking forward to what God has in store for us next.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Andrew Wingert '13



When he's not flying out of Louisville, KY, to another job site, Andrew Wingert '13 is busy solving Broadcast Production problems for traditional broadcasters so they can continue to deliver events remotely. Especially now, during the Covid-19 pandemic. Headlining his current jobs: prototyping new hardware solutions for UFC, POV Cam team for the Drone Racing League and others.

Wingert enjoys the opportunity to work with full-time employed and freelance colleagues, pursuing challenging / problem solving jobs. In this fluid career, Andrew has learned to embrace opportunity. Do what interests you are his words of advice. "Learn to collaborate, realizing you can't do it all by yourself," he says. "Call on fellow alums and colleagues to help you."

Broadcast Production is not meant to be conducted in a vacuum. "It's a team effort. Reach out, make friends, build a family in the industry and lean on them."

COMM ARTS ACADEMIC AWARDS

Bethany Simmons Academic Excellence Award Communications
Sarah Nesselroade Academic Excellence Award Theatre & Cinema Performance
Emily Nelson Academic Excellence Award Actor: Frankie Taylor for "An Inspector Calls"
Outstanding Performance Award Theatre & Cinema

Actress: Mary Kane for "Silent Sky"
Outstanding Performance Award Theatre & Cinema

Jack Widener Greathouse Scholarship
Katherine Fitch Westerfield Scholarships
Sarah Cole and Sarah Nesselroade – multiple productions Outstanding Technical Award
Sydney Scheller and Maggie Richwine Character and Leadership Award

Jana Wiersema Academic Excellence Award Journalism
Madelyne Jacks Academic Excellence Award Media Communication
Brittany Robinson Academic Excellence Award Instructional Design
Catherine Rinehart Charles Keysor Award for Outstanding Junior Journalism Major
Catherine Rinehart PULLI Pulliam Journalism Scholarship
Ethan Sirls Cre8tive Group Endowed Scholarship
Abigail Peklo Rains Scholarship

For more information about the School of Communications, visit

asbury.edu/comarts

asbury.edu/gradcom

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:
Todd Wold

Prior to academia, Assistant Professor Todd Wold worked in corporate communications for 18 years at Ameriprise Financial. It was during his undergraduate education that Wold gained an interest in Public Relations.

With the Asbury learning experience, Wold has the advantage of combining academics with real-world experiences, overseeing the University's chapter of the PRSSA, giving students real professional experience in working in the Public Relations world through the Aspire Agency and the Highbridge Film Festival.

Aiming to equip Asbury students with a moral and ethical approach to the PR and the professional world through experiential work, Professor Wold shares, "I emphasize the ethical integrity requisite of a Christian in the public relations field. Just as experiential learning prepares them for a thriving career, spiritual vitality shapes them into a communication professional that engenders trust, integrity, and servant leadership for a world in great need of those attributes."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
Jana Wiersema '20

Recent graduate, Jana Wiersema has a passion for finding the truth and is not afraid to find ways to discover it. Storytelling is the reason she studied Journalism and Creative Writing at Asbury. She believes that storytelling allows her to explore new perspectives and

attitudes of her life experiences through the characters in her stories. Having the opportunity to explore and discover also stirs her passion of journalism. Through journalism, Jana not only broadens her understanding of new subjects, she has the chance to connect readers to new perspectives and information. Wiersema plans to begin her career in Columbus, IN, as a general assignment reporter for *The Republic* on the city government and local education beat.