



A Message from the Dean

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Over the past 9 months, the world of business has experienced an unprecedented disruption in the marketplace. Many have lost jobs, postponed careers, or have had to find new ways of working remotely. As Believers in the marketplace, what do we make of this? How should we respond?

I am greatly encouraged by the manner in which our students and alumni are responding. Never has the spirit of entrepreneurship been so evident. We are finding new and innovative ways to work and learn while continuing our focus to minister and be good stewards in the marketplace. Now is the time for us to show our faith by the way we approach our daily work. While Zoom may not be the ideal relational mode of business, we can use it as a channel to share the message of hope with our co-workers.

One of our new graduates, Andrew Coomes '20 and his partners Drew Turner '20, Colin Toth '20 and Brady Buher '21 competed in the 2020 Kentucky Pitch Contest with their startup idea called OPUS. While winning their regional competition, COVID-19 derailed their plans to compete in the State Finals. This past weekend the Finals were held virtually with team OPUS taking second place!

Our plans and hopes may be delayed, but our work continues. Stay strong and be "the best for the world."



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Colin Toth '20



Graduating during a pandemic was a challenge, but this marketing and ancient languages double major believes he has the experience and knowledge to move ahead. "As I've worked with all sorts of teams across the business disciplines, I've learned how to be both a good follower and a good leader. I've been poured into by so many professors in the school, and I'm grateful for their generosity, encouragement, and mentoring," said Toth. His experience on campus included serving as the senior class president and, just recently, placing second with fellow Asburians in the State Finals for the 2020 Kentucky Pitch Competition. Attending the University of Texas for a Master of Science in Marketing Research, he will continue working remotely for Multitek, a firewood processor out of Wisconsin, until they permanently fill his position. Ultimately, his hope is to become a consultant and find answers to big questions for all kinds of companies.

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS



- Construction has begun on the 53,000 sq. ft., fully-funded Collaborative Learning Center will provide state-of-the-art facilities and technology that will unite Asbury's STEM programs with the Howard & Beverly Dayton School of Business. Additionally, collaborative space for students and faculty across all disciplines and space for conferences and special events will be included. Progress made can be viewed at: asbury.edu/CLCprogress
- Originally competing in the Marketplace Summit at Asbury Theological Seminary, OPUS placed second in the Exploratory Track of this year's KY Pitch Finals. This team, led by recent graduate Andrew Coomes, also included graduates Drew Turner and Colin Toth and senior Brady Buher. This recognition included a cash prize, office space, legal consultation, branding guidance and mentoring. Congratulations!

For more information about the Dayton School of Business, visit:

asbury.edu/Business

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:
Prof. Alesha Graves

A public accountant and financial controller for a large church, Alesha Grave's desire was to "teach and help young people see that they can change the world with a financial degree." Now Graves is doing just that, teaching several undergraduate accounting courses and two courses in the MBA and APS programs. She is currently working to complete her doctoral degree, as well. Her joy comes from helping students realize their unique gifts and how those gifts can be used to honor God.

As she worked in the field of accounting, Graves learned that we do not need to be seen or known to make an impact. Her work with nonprofit organizations was fundamental in helping others achieve their mission and she understood that the organization must have a solid financial foundation to continue working, growing, and advancing. That's what she shares with her students.

As advisor the Asbury's Phi Beta Lambda chapter, Graves prepares students for their future career. She encourages her students to "solidify their identity in Christ and establish themselves as life-long learners."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
Sophia Colclasure '22

Choosing Accounting on a whim before she started college, Sophia quickly realized that she enjoyed the challenge of this major. No two problems are alike and each one requires tenacity and accuracy.

More than just entering numbers into a spreadsheet, she has enjoyed discovering that accountants are analytical problem-solvers who uncover discrepancies and create opportunities that follow foundational formulas that build upon each other to find solutions and/or errors. Because the structure and material in accounting is both compact and fast-paced, she has learned to stay on top of her lessons, meeting with study groups regularly and asking questions. She especially loves the wonderfully designed exams that her professors provide. "Our professors want us to succeed, not just in our careers, but in life. They have encouraged me to be joyful in accounting, incorporating all areas of business into solving every day problems."