



## A Message from the Dean

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This was a remarkable semester at Asbury University. There were campus-wide adjustments required by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our classes, including some labs, were taught remotely or in hybrid format. Masks and social distancing were the norm, and Chapel services meet five times per week, but with limited seating. Despite of – or because of – these changes, we managed to maintain on-campus teaching and activities. Asbury's leaders deserve a lot of credit for making this possible, and we pray that this on-campus community can continue in the spring.

Even with these distractions, we have much to celebrate. Asbury University received its largest single donation this Fall. Dr. and Mrs. Walter Shaw's \$10 million gift ensures that the Collaborative Learning Center can be built debt-free, including eight new laboratories, new faculty offices and a student collaborative space for the School of Science, Health & Mathematics. The Howard Dayton School of Business will also call the Center home. \$500,000 of the Shaw's generous gift specified use for current programming, including new laboratory instruments, student scholarships, and a summer faculty/student research program. This is a tremendous blessing and our goal is to steward the Shaw's generous gift in the best way possible.

In addition, Asbury's equine program continues to grow. Thirty new majors arrived this fall, the Police Mounts program continues to gain national recognition, and the number of majors in the new Equine Science (pre-veterinary) major has doubled since last year. To date, five students have received acceptances to medical school and one to veterinary school.

I do need to end this Dean's letter with some faculty news: Dr. Bobby Baldrige will retire at the end of this semester. Bobby has taught biology, anatomy and physiology courses to thousands of Asbury students in more than 26 years of service. On a personal note, Bobby was a great help to me when I arrived on campus in 2016 as the new department chair. I will miss him greatly.

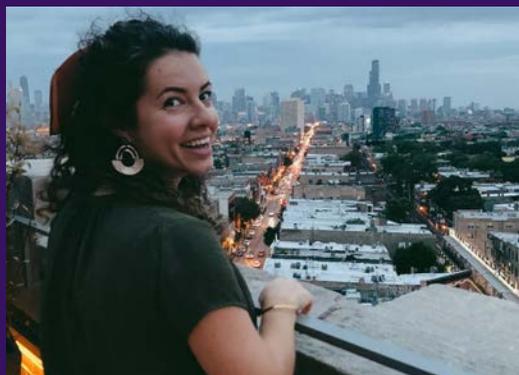
The psalmist asked: **When the foundations are shaken, what are the righteous to do?** This was a challenging semester, change seems to be the norm and the future is not certain. Still, we know that ultimately God is in control.

We do have much to be thankful for and we will approach each day as faithful servants.

## NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

- **Constructions began at the beginning of November on the 53,000 sq. ft., fully-funded Collaborative Learning Center, which 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. A \$10 million gift from Dr. Walt '63 and Rowena Phillips '63 Shaw, founders of Avanti Polar Lipids, Inc., included \$500,000 designated for the Science & Health department within Asbury's School of Science, Health & Mathematics**
- **Horses Killian and Kojack were trained by Clara Quade '20 and Vickie Fellers '21 under master trainer Jesse Westfall. They are now part of the Vancouver Mounted Police, where they joined three other horses from Asbury's 2019 placements. These two outstanding geldings are the seventh and eighth horses placed in 2020, including three to Atlanta GA, two to Albuquerque NM, and one to Bethlehem PA.**

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: *Dr. Sharayah Jung '13 Welchel*



Having switched her major from biology to adventure leadership and finally psychology, Sharayah Jung '13 Welchel chose Physical Therapy as her career path. She credits help in this choice to our own Center for Career and Calling. After graduating with her degree in Psychology, she earned her doctorate in PT from the University of Kentucky. Welchel is the lead therapist at Select Specialty Hospital, which is a long-term, acute care facility. Working with chronically, critically ill in rehab situations is "very challenging, but also very rewarding."

As a PT, Welchel gets to see patients progress on a daily basis, meeting people at their most vulnerable. When asked about the joy of her vocation, her response is genuine. "I love helping someone stand for the first time since an accident, or to be able to walk again after being bedbound for six months." Welchel continually prays for her patients, knowing that as much as she strives to help them make good life choices and take ownership for their recovery, nothing happens without God.

For more information about the School of Science, Health and Mathematics, visit:

[asbury.edu/science-health-math](https://asbury.edu/science-health-math)

For upcoming events, visit:

[asbury.edu/calendar](https://asbury.edu/calendar)

To update your contact information or to share a class note, please contact the Alumni Office:  
[alumni@asbury.edu](mailto:alumni@asbury.edu)



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: *Dr. Bobby Baldrige*

For as long as he can remember, Dr. Bobby Baldrige has been fascinated by microbiology. Unsure of where the interest originated, Baldrige says it's "just a part of who I am."

A veterinarian-turned-Biology professor, Baldrige also has a passion for teaching, interacting and sharing. Teaching fulfills his desire to influence young people in their formative stages of academic development. He also believes research plays a critical role in that interaction. In learning the trials and hardships of research, "students take heart from the successes of other Asbury students and alumni."

Baldrige estimates that he has served as senior research instructor for more than two dozen Asbury undergrads.

To Dr. Baldrige, "the most rewarding part of teaching at Asbury is seeing students face the challenges of research, learning how to cope with and succeed through those challenges." Thank you, Dr. Baldrige, for your faithful service at Asbury.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: *Carolyn Bailey '22*

Carolyn grew up with a great appreciation for Creation, the outdoors, music and science. This exposure led her to look for a program that incorporated her love for horses and for science. An Equine Science major, she studies Equine

Management and medicinally-focused science courses that will prepare her for vet school, a career in animal research or clinical work in a practice. For her, understanding the operation of a horse's body and seeing progress in their treatment is how she follows God's calling in her life. Watching and interacting with horses provides her with a sense of peace and fulfillment that never ceases to amaze her. "Being around fellow students, who are just as passionate and driven as I am to earn degrees in the science and equine fields, brings me a sense of belonging for which I am so grateful."