



A Note from Dr. Jim Owens '79

Dean, School of Communication Arts

jim.owens@asbury.edu



This fall semester has been unique, to say the least. We have all adapted to creating projects with masks and social distancing...just like the rest of the world. However, that has not stopped us from moving forward.

Through this, our students are gaining new experiences. Our theatre productions were streamed live and, due to the generosity of a donor, we had prominent guest journalists Zooming in from all over the U.S. each month. We are just finishing the installation of a new television control room in our Miller Building that will be used as the central production point for streaming television productions from across campus. Our students will remotely control robotic cameras for Chapel and music productions from this room.

Three new programs have been approved to launch in the School of Communication Arts for the fall of 2021. The undergrad new majors include online programs in Health Communication and Digital Content Creation. And we will begin offering a new master's degree in Instructional Design, Innovation & Leadership.

Our alumni have been incredibly busy this semester including: a producer for Major League Baseball in the bubble in Orlando; a technical manager for all of the NASCAR races on NBC; a new host of a show on the Golf Channel; a director of horseracing on NBC; and one of our grads was just nominated for an Emmy Award for his audio work on the Disney/Star Wars show Mandalorian. It is exciting to see how God is using our graduates in creative ways.

We wish you a Merry Christmas!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Lora Bentley '96



A third generation Asburian, Lora Bentley landed in the Civil Rights Enforcement arena after corporate restructuring had her thinking outside the box when looking for employment. A journalism major and lawyer by trade, she works as an investigator for the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, utilizing all of her training.

Recognizing that not every job comes with a direct path, she shares a word of advice, "Don't assume that a particular job or career path necessarily follows from a given major or course of study. Be ready to push yourself outside your own preconceived ideas."

Working as an investigator for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which is the agency that enforces the federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination, Bentley loves being able to create the smallest amount of change in this upside-down world. Some days that means getting someone's job back or making sure someone who is entitled to a disability accommodation is afforded one, or simply listening to someone's story.

Bentley believes that we all should be quicker to "give grace in the day-to-day, seeing the world through the eyes of others." She applies this mentality to her work, noting that "our differences are what make life interesting."

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

The Asbury Theatre Department made live theatre happen again with their production of "3 PLAYS – 1 SHOW – 6 NIGHTS". They featured three completely different stories performed for audiences in Miller Greathouse Theatre. Due to limited distanced seating, two of the performances were livestreamed as well, allowing audiences to watch it in a dorm, at home, or wherever they may be.

Launched by the Asbury University Journalism Department, "Pressing Matters: Media in the Fake News Era" is a monthly series with special guests discussing the current state of journalism, the politicization of issues, and how to combat media bias. For more information, email katherine.sheets@asbury.edu



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:
Barry Blair, MFA

Using your talents and turning them into your profession is exactly what Barry Blair has done. A musician and music producer who was fascinated with the technical aspects of recording music, Blair turned his talent into teaching. Blair currently teaches audio production, where he enjoys watching his students succeed in their careers and life.

Working as a team and placing a high value on those you work with is important to Blair, as is acknowledging the contribution they make to your success. His relationships with his students and helping them succeed bring him joy.

We asked what advice Blair would give to students and young alums and he quoted C.S. Lewis, "Look for yourself and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ, and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
Jack Widener '21

A first-generation college student from Taiwan, Jack is a communication major with a graphic design emphasis. An undeclared major his freshman year, he searched for help to better understand who he was. He discovered his passion with the support of his Asbury

mentor and the Center for Career & Calling. The challenge of thinking critically and creatively about the world using design brings him joy and the outlet to wonder. He is learning that projects can always be improved and how to take good, constructive criticism. He loves how rigorous and relevant his studies are. "It is not always greener on the other side, but is green where you water it. I have decided to commit to Asbury and to water my lawn here. It has been an amazing experience."