



President Brown Begins Year with Challenge and Encouragement



"I appeal to you, as students in a liberal arts community, to embrace intellectual rigor. I make a sincere call to more deliberately elevate our Christian identity above every other identity."

Dr. Kevin J. Brown, President, welcomed the Asbury community back to campus in the first Chapel service of the semester with a talk titled "The Elevation of our Christian Identity." Typically this would be a Convocation service, however, this year it was Dr. Brown and students spread across Hughes Auditorium in order to meet COVID-19 guidelines. In the midst of these changes and challenges, Dr. Brown encouraged students, faculty and staff to remember that our identity in Christ is the one that defines us above all others.

[Listen to Chapel Message](#)

Students are Back and Mask Mode is on!



Undergraduate students are back on campus and Asbury University is celebrating a successful start for the fall term of 2020. After a staggered move-in schedule and a shortened orientation for new students, classes began on Monday, August 17. Thankful to be together, students, faculty and staff are committed to maintain the new guidelines and protocols intended to allow Asbury's community to stay healthy and stay on campus. Changes can be seen across campus, from Chapel to the classroom to the cafeteria. It is different, but there is a willingness to commit to these changes in order to be together on campus.

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Athletics Launches Graduate Assistant Program

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is pleased to announce the hiring of four graduate assistants (Colton Back '20, Ashley Byrd '20, Paige Miller '20, and Noah Welch '20), who will serve in the athletic department for the 2020-21 academic year while working on a master's degree.

"This is another important step in the growth of the Athletic program at Asbury," Mark Whitworth '84, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics & University Strategic Communications said. "It is very special to provide the opportunity for Ashley, Colton, Noah and Paige to pursue a graduate degree while also gaining valuable workplace experience. Each one of them are exemplary student-athletes who have represented TeamAU with great distinction."

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Masterclasses Created for Prospective Students



Embracing creativity, the Asbury Admissions team worked with Professor David Whitaker '10, Communication Arts Instructor, to produce Masterclasses for prospective students. In these online presentations, professors in the areas of film, theatre and adventure leadership provide an opportunity to hone your craft or gain a new perspective.

[Explore the Classes](#)

Commencement 2020 Moved to Virtual Platform

A decision to move Commencement for the Class of 2020 to an online event was made by many members of the Asbury community, including the Provost, Visionary Class President Colin Toth '20 and student body President Maggie Richwine '20.

Dr. Timothy Wooster, Provost, wrote to the Visionary Class the following:

As you know, we were unable to hold our Commencement this past May. At the time, we were hopeful that COVID-19 cases would have decreased enough to provide renewed confidence regarding the safety and health of everyone returning to campus in October for an in-person event. Unfortunately, that is not our reality as we enter this fall. For these reasons, we feel that we cannot safely and responsibly hold an in-person commencement this October and will be moving to an online video modality for this ceremony.

On October 17, 2020, we will hold a virtual event that will recognize and honor the new Asbury graduates in a ceremonial way. While COVID-19 will not allow us to gather in-person for a celebratory event currently, we will schedule a time for the graduates of 2020 to gather together on campus when it's safe to do so. While we know this is disappointing, I continue to believe that we can honor and celebrate our graduates in a manner worthy of their years at Asbury.

Additional information can be found in the Commencement FAQs.

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A Devotional Thought: The God Who Sees

by Yvonne Cochran '58 Moulton

In these struggling days when many question where God is, we must turn our thoughts again and again to the truth that God is love and that one quality of His love is a seeing-love — He sees everywhere, the good and the evil; He knows and still loves. That truth may seem intimidating, but we hear His promises: I see you, and I will bless you; I see you, and I will make you able to see what you could not see without Me; I see you and I will guide you with My eye all the way from earth to glory.

The story of Hagar reminds us of a "God Who sees." When Sarah was abusive, Hagar ran away, but an angel met her, reassured her, and predicted the future of her son. She answered this voice of God, prayed to Him, and returned to her heartless mistress after she utters those wonderful words, "You are the God who sees." And after that, "I saw Him." Later in her story, she was again cast out, starving, parched from thirst, so desperate that she hid her dying child so she would not have to watch his suffering. God saw, called to her, opened her eyes to see salvation — a well of water there in that desolate place (Genesis 16).

Jeremiah 23:23-24 records God's assurance to us: "Am I a God at hand, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places?" No. The Lord knows you and me. He sees us and longs to be our Father. We must affirm again a God Who sees, and know that His seeing is a dimension of His great love for us.

I have two very special children who struggle with "seeing." As they grow older, that disability is harder for them — and me. "Why, mother, won't this string fit in this hole? You can make it do it." "Why did you miss the turn, mother? Why are you making a U turn?" How I wish they could see what I see. How I wish I could give them eyes that would dispel confusion. But God can open our eyes to understand His truth and to deepen our love for Him.

O Father, Who sees and knows me, open my eyes that I may see "glimpses of truth You have for me." Open my heart and help me deepen my love for Thee and deepen my passion to share Your love with Thy children.

Yvonne Cochran '58 Moulton, retired faculty and Dean of Women, leads a woman's Bible study for current students (for more than 30 years now) and hosts the retired faculty prayer meetings in her home. Investing in the lives of others, Yvonne has impacted countless people throughout her lifetime, exemplifying hospitality and generosity. She continues to serve Asbury, raise her children and love kindly. She lost her beloved husband, Dr. Alan Moulton '60, in 2017. Yvonne is a lifelong learner and follower of Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Events

- **Family Weekend - CANCELLED** originally scheduled for Oct. 1-3
- **Asbury Alumni Prayer Time:** Thurs., Oct. 1, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. ET
Zoom Meeting: <https://asbury.zoom.us/j/93077075913>; Meeting ID: 930 7707 5913
- **#TeamAU Golf Experience:** Tues., Oct. 13
Find out more: asburyeagles.com
- **Asbury on the Road - A Virtual Gathering:** Sat., Nov. 7 at 11 a.m. ET



Chapel continues to be a sanctuary for tender hearts and tough minds. We invite you to join our Asbury community as we encourage our students to develop a deeper relationship with Christ. Please click on the hyperlinks below to listen.

Dr. Sarah Thomas '93 Baldwin – August 21, 2020
"Being a Disciple of Jesus"
Learning to follow Jesus is a progression of: asking to follow Him, getting in the dust, eating of the Word, and being bonded with other followers.
asbury.edu/podcasts/73164/

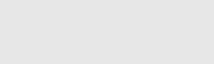
Reverend Dr. Dave Ward – January 27, 2016
"Suffering: The Bitter and the Sweet"
For Holiness Emphasis Week, Reverend Dr. Dave Ward speaks about pain, suffering, loss, testing, and character.
asbury.edu/podcasts/59758/

Rev. Dr. Esther Jadhav – January 23, 2019
"Created in the Image of God"
Rev. Esther Jadhav speaks about how everyone is created in God's image, is accountable to God, and about the importance of equality.
asbury.edu/podcasts/59983/

For additional podcasts, visit asbury.edu/podcasts.

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