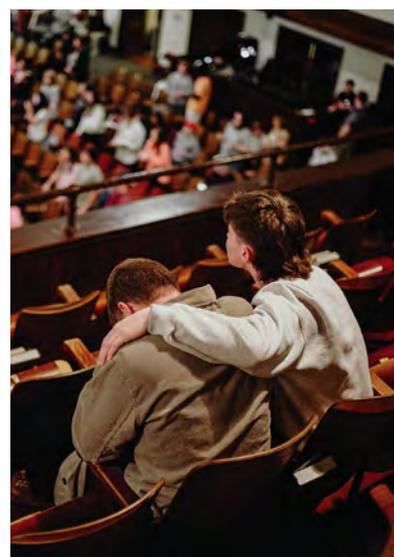


# AMBASSADOR

ASBURY UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2023



ASBURY OUTPOURING  
A FLAME ADVANCING



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ASBURY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE  
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## ASBURY UNIVERSITY

is a private, Christian, liberal arts institution, providing academic excellence in a context of spiritual vitality. This nationally recognized, nondenominational university offers more than 150 undergraduate majors, plus degree-completion, graduate degrees and high school dual-enrollment programs to a student body of more than 1,600. Founded in 1890, the University's globally aware heritage has more than 22,000 living alumni who live and serve in all 50 states and more than 80 nations.

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# President's Message

## A FLAME ADVANCING

February 8 was as ordinary of a day as you can imagine. The weather was gray and cold. We were settled into the spring semester. I streamed our Wednesday chapel service from my office that morning. After a message from the speaker, the Gospel Choir performed as the live-stream came to a close. I left my computer and proceeded to an 11 a.m. meeting. As I was preparing for lunch, my wife texted these exact words at 11:57 a.m.: "There are still people singing and praying in chapel. I've been there since it ended."

As the day progressed, more students came. Then more. Once the day hit late afternoon and students were still worshipping, I knew something special was happening. Something different. Something beyond what we could manufacture or plan.

What followed was 16 days unlike anything I have ever observed in my life. Words will never capture what was experienced, witnessed and sensed during this time. In sum, the spontaneous, multi-day services hosted approximately 50,000 guests. We saw nearly 200 million views of #AsburyRevival online. We had visitors from more than 280 colleges and universities representing 39 states. We had both domestic and international travelers desperate and eager to get to Hughes Auditorium. Asburians overnight coordinated other host sites to simulcast throughout Wilmore.

“ I have never seen such a collection of hungry hearts stirred, seeking and repentant.

I have never been so caught up in the timelessness of sweet worship, prayer and testimony.

I have never seen such radical humility, hospitality and goodwill displayed by so many.”

For two weeks, the world turned its attention to Asbury University. I am so proud of what they saw. On Asbury's Outpouring webpage, I posted the following:

*The effort by committed men and women on our campus to redirect energy, forsake other obligations, work tirelessly around the clock, and provide single-minded labor to accommodate our students and incoming visitors has been the high point in my career. In fact, it may be the most extraordinary act of collective Godliness and hospitable goodwill I have ever witnessed in my life. I am forever grateful. I am forever changed.*



We estimate that Asbury welcomed more than 50,000 visitors from Feb. 8-23, 2023, in a spontaneous outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our campus. Hundreds of millions also were impacted through social media.

During this outpouring of God's Spirit, we began to discuss the metaphor of fire. A fire is brightest when it is tallest. In this sense, we experienced an unparalleled spiritual bonfire from February 8 to February 23.

Yet, a fire is hottest when it is smoldering.

Even though it may look like what has happened is "dying down," my hope is that it is merely smoldering. My prayer has been for these embers to flare with a searing hot flame for years and years to come. A campus marked. A people changed. A flame advancing. A world impacted.

There are so many images I have pondered over the last few weeks. My favorite comes from the very day this began, February 8. After a brief trip to my office, I observed a student running toward Hughes and up the steps to get in.

There are so many important things that we do at Asbury University. Rigorous intellectual development. Social and communal integration. Market preparation. Spiritual maturation. But this image is foremost in my mind as a desire for our students. That is, to run to Jesus. Run to the cross. Run to serve. Run to the abundant life.

As Asburians, may our efforts advance the mission of Asbury University — and may it advance this image of seeking after Christ with joy and enthusiasm.

Kevin J. Brown, Ph.D.  
President



# God began a great work in me

By Alexandra Presta '23, Executive Editor of the Asbury Collegian

## THE ASBURY COMMUNITY WELCOMES VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Alexandra Presta '23

It's still hard to verbalize everything that happened during the overwhelming outpouring of the Holy Spirit on a place I have called home for the past four years.

I don't know how many people came. I heard tens of thousands, and from how I watched people crowd Hughes Auditorium and line up across the entirety of campus for multiple days, even that number seems low.

I also don't know how long it lasted or, rather, how long it's lasting. It started on Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. with a message from pastor Zach Meerkreebs about love from Romans 12. Yet, even as Asbury stopped hosting public services, the Lord continues to move across the Wilmore community, Kentucky, the United States, and the world.

I count it as a blessing, though, that none of us know for sure all the details of everything that happened. That's for God to know and reveal when He wants to. I care more about the limitless testimonies of how God showed up in a way my generation has never experienced before.

An anonymous senior confessed feelings of anger and then a fear of repenting. God provided peace and restoration. "And now," they said. "The pit in my stomach is gone." Freshman Bobilyn Carr felt like she "didn't have a community." When the Outpouring began, God stirred her heart.

"God began a great work in me," she said. "He has given me a peace I don't understand, and He has shown me that I am loved, seen and known by Him." During a call of confession, at least a hundred people fell to their knees and bowed at the altar. Hands rested on shoulders, linking individual people together to represent the Body of Christ truly. Cries of addiction, pride, fear, anger and bitterness sounded, each followed by a life-changing proclamation: "Christ forgives you."

Freshman Kade Edler shared about how the months prior to the Outpouring contained some of the darkest times in his life. He cried out to God to break him out of this cycle.

"I have confessed everything I have ever done, and since I did that, I have felt so free," Edler said. "There were people I have never met who were praying over me and shared their stories with me. I have been surrounded by a community of brothers who will push me to seek God with my whole heart."

I remember Asbury during 2020. Not only did the coronavirus keep us physically apart, but there was division across campus. There were cliques based on majors, classes, athletics, political preferences and more.

Our loving God fought against it. He brought us together and is continuing to mold us into a stronger community. After all, He is a God of unity. Why else would His Spirit fall on a bunch of students on a random Wednesday morning?

"We're learning to love across greater boundaries and rifts," junior Dakota Poole said. "We're learning about the effort love takes. If God is love, and He crosses boundaries, we're called to do the same."





To keep up to date on how God is moving,  
← Scan here or visit [asbury.edu/outpouring](http://asbury.edu/outpouring)



On Feb. 8, 2023, what began as a routine Wednesday morning Chapel service with the student body turned into a multi-week Outpouring that some have described as a revival. Led by students, the services attracted college students from hundreds of other colleges and universities, beginning as soon as Wednesday evening.

Then, news of the continuous services spread around the world, and attracted people to Wilmore from as far away as Russia and Japan. Media outlets arrived en masse to cover the spiritual awakening among young people. Countless reports of life change, salvation, and re-dedications to Christ were some of the amazing results of the Outpouring events. Asbury staff, faculty, students and volunteers worked tirelessly to welcome the visitors to campus, with orderly lines to get into Hughes extending a half mile long around campus.



Since then, the community has worked to share what God did, and spread the Gospel and testimonies of life change. Also, Asbury's pastoral care staff is working to disciple and mentor students impacted through the Outpouring.



The overwhelming generosity of friends and strangers, alike, blessed those attending the Outpouring.

## FEEDING GOD'S SHEEP

*Tucker family prayerfully trusted God would provide*

After hearing of the Outpouring on Asbury's campus through social media, small business owner Brad Tucker and his family traveled over two hours to station a food truck in Wilmore and provide hot, fresh meals for those attending the services at no charge.

"The Lord told me to come and feed his sheep," said Tucker.

The family's home church donated supplies and ingredients to kick off the act of service, but after a few days of feeding the community, the Tucker family prayerfully trusted that God would provide.

"If it's the Lord's will, we hope that He multiplies the food so we can be here as long as you guys are," explained Tucker, with a bright smile. Many days consisted of cooking and serving of 600 hot dogs or any food that was donated to the truck, which lasted most days of the Outpouring. "It's Spirit-led and has no names attached to it," marveled Tucker. "It's Jesus."

Other organizations such as The Salvation Army, One Way Coffee, Chick-fil-A, Joella's Hot Chicken and many others also served food free of charge during the Outpouring to bless visitors and the Asbury community, alike.

Testimonies, preaching, Scripture reading and prayer continued in between Spirit-led worship sessions. Different pieces of art filled the upper stage in between college students sitting and standing on metal bleachers. Confession and forgiveness poured out. Some people stretched their hands up and sang as loud as they could. Others fell to their knees or remained still, wanting to simply sit in the presence of God.

Everything that occurred at Asbury and that continues to occur here — the healing, the weeping, the rejoicing — is not because of the building. Has revival occurred on these floors and across the seats before? Yes, and what a glorious experience it was for all those involved. But it didn't happen because the sun lit the room in a specific way. It didn't happen because of the particular people leading or the songs sung.

The moments I've seen — a woman in the front row still with her hand barely raised and tears in her eyes, a huddle of friends sitting on the ground in desperate prayer, the heart of an Asbury student running to Dollar General to buy coffee and supplies and so much more — have occurred because Jesus is listening, moving and speaking.

"This is not just an Asbury thing," President Dr. Kevin Brown said in Hughes on Feb. 10. "This is a Kingdom thing."

God knew what we needed to do and helped us do it. It happened because of Jesus. Everything happening here right now, and everything that will happen is because of Jesus. Oh, what a beautiful name it is.

## A WITNESS TO REVIVAL

*By Rev. Diane Nelson '83 Ury*



Diane Nelson '83 Ury

At age 19, I transferred to Asbury College. I did not yet know Jesus, barely even knew anything about Him.

My first day in Chapel in Hughes Auditorium, I had no idea what we were doing or why. Then the singing started. I had never heard that kind of singing.

I saw kids my own age singing robustly from their hearts and opening their own Bibles during the preaching. They seemed to understand what the preacher was talking about. They flooded down to that rail thing, and I heard

Continued on next page.



they were meeting God there. I was so drawn to the whole deal, fascinated by people who knew Jesus and loved Him. This made me extremely curious and filled my soul with longing. I had many intellectual struggles with religion, but in my heart the Spirit allowed me to place hope in these new friends and their experiences of knowing God. After a few months of seeking, I heard His Voice for myself, and I have never recovered from that beautiful sound.

On February 8, 2023, at Asbury University, the risen, living Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, came to offer His heart of holy love to the student body. To “revive” means to “re-life.” The Father had heard their cries; He’d seen their pain, fear, anxiety, sin and captivity. Jesus came to rescue them and to bring them into His very Life. He poured out His Spirit upon and into those who would receive Him. Many did, and many were curious.

What the curious found when they heard Jesus say, “Come and see!” because His presence was safe despite the darkness of their sin. His light-bringing conviction came forth from His loving heart, and they found rest.

While I was ministering on the prayer team at the altar in Hughes, I took in the continual worship rhythm of Scripture, testimony and proclamation. Never did people stop coming to the altar or worshiping. The sense I got was mutual giving and receiving between us and Jesus, bringing joy to both. And, there was something like a swell in the room — not only volume, but quality fullness.

Emotionalism could have driven the worship, but the student team never went there. Students indeed led us continually to focus on Jesus; our King and Redeemer, our Knower and Lover and Healer.

By the time I arrived it was day nine, and I recognized my 19-year-old self in these seekers from near and far. The response of the Asbury University students openly coming to Jesus, worshipping Him with abandon, testifying to cleansing from sin, deliverance from anxiety, and fullness of joy unleashed the latent, but fully human created longing for God in young people all over the country and the world! They were invited by the Spirit to “Come and see!” what Jesus was doing in the lives of kids their own age.

Meeting and praying with them at “that rail thing” was such a joy. Some came speechless, with nothing to offer

but tears of Thanksgiving. Many came wanting Jesus for the first time ever, even though they had no Christian vocabulary for their longings. I asked each person if they’d ever given their lives to Jesus. For those who hadn’t yet given their lives to Him, we together walked with them into the goodness of who He is and what He has done for them. They confessed their sins aloud to Jesus. With each statement their voices rose in intensity of joy and freedom.

“The Lord has pleasure in those who fear, those who wait upon His unfailing Love.”  
— PSALM 147:11

A guy drove a thousand miles, was the first one in the door, ran to the altar and threw himself on the floor heaving in despair for an hour. He found help and hope.

An addict just out of rehab who’d lost his family and everything else, received the risen Savior’s life into his own, walking back to his seat a new creation.

A wisp of a high school girl drove all the way from the Rocky Mountains, mustered the courage to come forward for cleansing of her sinful behavior, and experienced freedom from self-harm and anxiety. When we hugged before she went back to her seat she looked like a different person. Because she was!

A middle aged, newly divorced woman came to know Jesus as the One Who truly completes her, Who will never abandon her. She’d been a Christian for decades, but had never talked directly to Jesus. She was undone. It was beautiful.

I gave a new Bible to one woman and had her underline a verse I showed her. She kept reading, grabbed the pen and underlined more verses. Later I saw her in the crowd with her new Bible clutched to her heart, smiling and singing gloriously.

In the crowds coming to see how and why there’s so much hope in central Kentucky, Jesus never sees a crowd. He sees each person individually, hears their cries, loves them, speaks to their hearts, “Come to Me.”





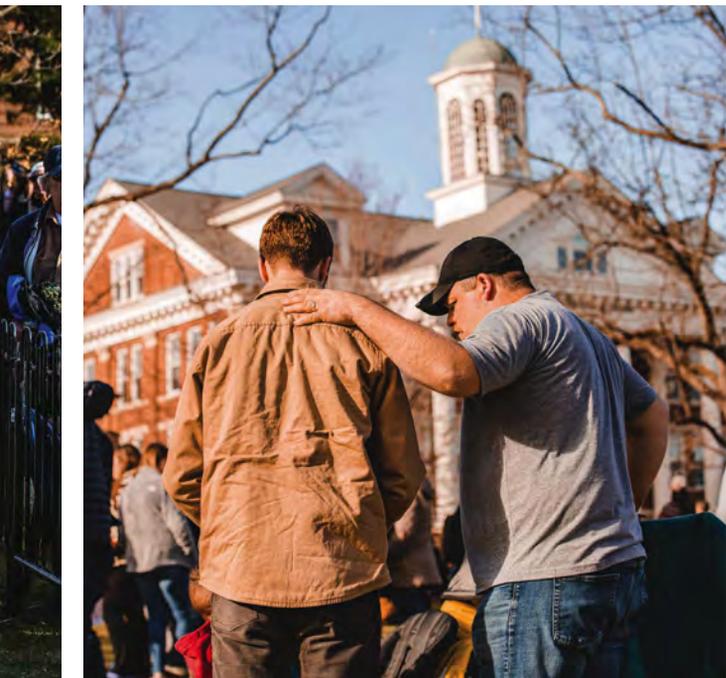
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# Outpouring

Services extended to multiple simulcast overflow locations, including at Asbury Theological Seminary, and Asbury also set up speakers and screens outdoors for visitors who could not make it into Hughes Memorial Auditorium due to the crowds.





## HUNDREDS OF ALUMNI GATHER VIRTUALLY TO PRAY OVER THE OUTPOURING

Faculty and staff began receiving emails, texts, and calls asking about what was happening at Asbury in February and had no way to answer them all during the Outpouring. Director of Alumni Relations **Lisa Falin '90 Harper** received a text from former alumni board member, **Kim Kyriakidis '92 George Race**, asking for a Zoom prayer time for her class and planted the idea for an alumni prayer time. And that's what happened on February 18, with more than 500 alumni joining the virtual prayer time.

"As more and more alumni joined us, the tears started flowing," said Harper. "What a beautiful gift to see your 'family,' and the Asbury team had no idea how much we needed it."

Many stories and prayer requests were shared on the call, including Asbury President Dr. Kevin Brown highlighting the incredible effort made by faculty, students, staff, and community members to host those whom God had brought to Wilmore. He shared the sweet sense of God's holy presence and specifically asked for prayers of protection – both physical and spiritual. Prayers were asked for wisdom and discernment and that the focus would remain on Jesus.

"Joining hearts with alumni to intercede on behalf of our current student body, campus visitors and individuals across the world was incredibly tender, a moment I will never forget," said **Melissa Richards '24**, who prayed on behalf of the student body. "There was just something so special about praying with people of differing generations and backgrounds, but all whose stories crossed and were formed at Asbury. What a blessing!"

After the designated prayer time ended, the call closed with, "And all God's people said Amen."

"The cacophony of Amens still brings tears to my eyes. So beautiful are the people of God and this Asbury family," reflected Harper. "We are grateful."

To join the monthly alumni prayer gatherings on Zoom on the first Thursday of each month, which originated in 2020, reach to out [alumni@asbury.edu](mailto:alumni@asbury.edu).



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# Outpouring



Countless Asbury students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends have stories to share of what they experienced during the Outpouring. Here are a few:



“The Outpouring was something that I needed because it made me a witness that God still moves in His people today. It also showed me that our generation is like Timothy in the Bible: We are inexperienced when it comes to preaching the word of God, yet we hunger to know Him more and more every day. Lastly, it showed me that God places us in different paths of life because He wants us to grow. His word never returns empty-handed. It always makes an impact in the hearts of those who hear Him.”

— **ESWIN MONROY**  
*Asbury Senior*



“While serving as a volunteer coordinator, I witnessed time and time again God’s miraculous provision. Hundreds of volunteers came to serve in any capacity asked of them. ‘I’m here to serve and do whatever is needed’ was the common theme. Food and water for those waiting in line was delivered just as supplies would run low with no resupply anticipated. Carloads of snacks from other communities arrived unannounced, anonymous orders of 50 pizzas were delivered on more than one occasion, and the list goes on and on. I am humbled to have served alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ in the presence of the Holy Spirit. My life is forever changed.”

— **MARGARET TORRES**  
*Academy Admissions Officer and Special Events Coordinator*



“I thought that chapel would be a normal service, and I planned to go about my day. But after Pastor Meerkrebs finished, there was another song that played, and it just felt different. God’s presence suddenly spoke to my heart in a way that compelled me to stay for a bit longer. I stayed for a bit after the service and returned after lunch when I heard that the service was still going.”

— **DONOVAN CHUNG**  
*Asbury Freshman*

“I answered incoming calls at the switchboard during the Outpouring. I spoke to a lady who called seeking confirmation that God was truly moving in a powerful way in our midst. Three days later, she drove four hours to Wilmore, not to worship in Hughes, but just to find me, hug me tightly, and give me this message from God: that I am seen and known, and that He sees my pain, and it will become a memory. This message was a direct answer to my prayers and a confirmation of His love that went beyond head knowledge and faith to heart knowledge and experience.”

— **BRENDA HILBERT**  
*Assistant Director of Human Resources and Risk Management*



“One of the ways I was blessed was seeing God using a diverse group of students to lead in singing and in prayer. I also was blessed to spend time hearing from students and praying with students in the Center for Academic Excellence, in classes, and in the Abide space that was set up in the Luce Auditorium. While the majority of the attention was on Hughes, I was able to see and experience the Holy Spirit showing up in other areas around campus in a variety of different ways.”

— **DR. HENRY ZONIO '97**

*Director of the Center for Academic Excellence*

“While serving as an usher, I witnessed hours-long lines of people waiting patiently to enter into God’s presence. There are two simple yet profound words that I would use to describe what I saw: holy longing! I was deeply moved by the glory of God and the hunger and thirst by the people of God.”

— **DR. DAWN KILIAN**

*Director of Intercultural Life*

“Through the Outpouring, I had the incredible privilege of encountering God’s glory, greatness, holiness, and gentleness. It was as if I was seeing Him in a new light – much greater and holier than I had ever imagined before. This led me to repent for not truly believing in God as He is.”

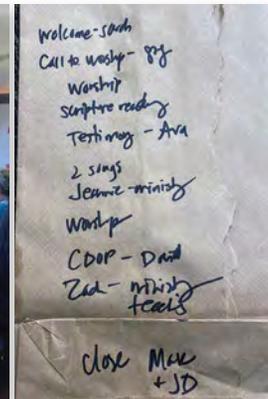
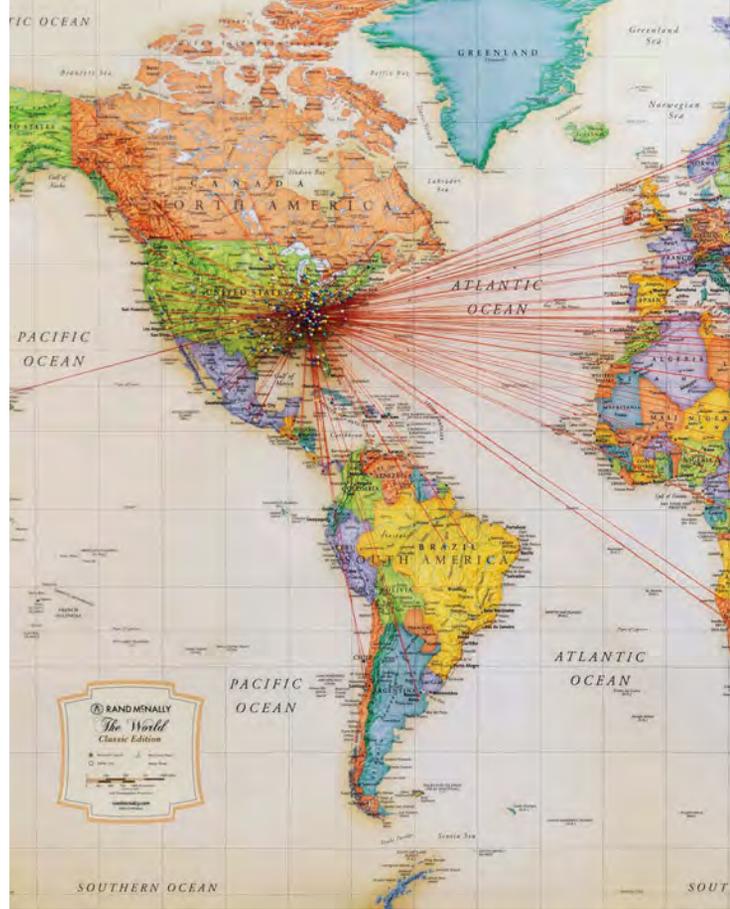
— **DR. SAM KIM**

*Assistant Professor of Intercultural Studies*

“His Spirit changed the atmosphere and went beyond Hughes. The most precious moments I had involved meaningful conversations in the dining hall and meeting new people throughout the city who had a hunger for God. Jesus is truly amazing, and I am so grateful that I had the chance to encounter His presence in such a tangible way on this campus before I graduate.”

— **CHARITY JOHNSON**

*Asbury Senior*





Sophomore Eliza Crawford completed an art project for class showcasing the known global impact of the Outpouring. Crawford shared that she hopes the project brings hope to others.

“In the last couple of weeks, I cannot help but think of Jesus as so much more present and active in my life. My prayer life has been reignited and I depend on His Spirit even more day to day. Jesus has brought me deep-seated joy and peace by reminding me of how good He is.”

— **ZEKE ATHA**  
Asbury Junior

“God completely changed my life through the outpouring of His Spirit. He has placed new callings on my heart. Now, I know my job is to go and spread the fire that He released here.”

— **KHALIL AKIKY '22**  
Asbury Grad Student

“The Lord showed me the vastness of His love and His ability to work in the lives of everyone at once. His intentionality and care are the same for me as for every person, no matter where we are.”

— **IZZY MILLER**  
Asbury Senior

“I didn't feel called to the altar. I do not have a revolutionary confession. Yet I know I felt the presence of the Lord in a way many described as 'a glimpse of heaven.' The Asbury community humbly served together – displaced from their usual 'day jobs' – to welcome thousands of visitors who came to encounter the living God.”

— **CHRISTINE KIEL ENDICOTT**  
Asbury Director of Conference Services

“The Outpouring gave me a deeper understanding of the body of Christ through a global lens. After seeing people come to Wilmore from so many nations and backgrounds, I have a greater hunger for God in my daily life.”

— **JENA PELLETIER**  
Asbury Senior





## ASBURY SEMINARY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

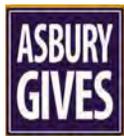
On Wednesday, April 19, Asbury University held an outdoor joint worship service with Asbury Theological Seminary as part of the seminary's Centennial Celebration. The service commemorated H.C. Morrison's founding of Asbury Seminary while he was still president of then Asbury College. Asbury Seminary President Dr. Timothy Tennent and Asbury University President Dr. Kevin Brown spoke at the service and Bristol House, a collective of young worship leaders in the Wesleyan tradition, led worship.



Asbury University President Dr. Kevin Brown presented Asbury Seminary President Dr. Timothy Tennent with a historic photo of H.C. Morrison during the seminary's Centennial Celebration in April.

Later that evening, a worship and prayer service led by Bristol House was held in the university's Hughes Auditorium. For more information, visit [asburyseminary.edu](http://asburyseminary.edu).

## ASBURYGIVES HELPS FUND SCHOLARSHIPS



Asbury celebrated its inaugural AsburyGives day in April. Giving focused on Scholarships, Honors Program, Choral Room Renovation, Academic Programs, Reunion Gift 2023, Outdoor Venue, Athletics, Set Apart Retreat and Other.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, alumni, students and parents, alike, a total of \$287,624 was raised from 446 donors. All of the funds directly benefit Asbury and its current and future students. To learn more, visit [asbury.edu/give](http://asbury.edu/give).

## MATH PROFESSOR RECEIVES NASA KENTUCKY GRANT TO ENCOURAGE STEM LEARNING

Professor of mathematics Dr. Duk Lee received a NASA Kentucky Space Grant for a series of aeronautic workshops for elementary, middle, and high school students and teachers in April and May. "Flying Activities with Walkalong Gliders, Paper Planes, and Tumble-wings" were held in the Luce Auditorium in the Shaw Collaborative Learning Center. Lee, who began teaching at Asbury in 2001, received his master's degree and Ph.D. in mathematics from Arizona State University. He serves as the chair of the Kentucky Section of the Mathematical Association of America (KYMAA) and as president of the Kentucky chapter of Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association.

## FAMOUS MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISTS VISIT CAMPUS

The Asbury Journalism Department welcomed two renowned journalists in the spring, Cal Thomas and Deroyn Murdock. They discussed news reporting, working in the

industry as a Christian, and shared memories from their seasoned experience in the media industry. Thomas was a Fox News regular, a writer for *USA Today*, and has become one of the most widely syndicated columnists in the country.

New York-based political commentator Murdock gave students an inside glimpse into the media world. Murdock is a Fox News contributor, a contributing editor with National Review Online, a former Media Fellow with the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University, and a Senior Fellow with the Atlas Network. His weekly column — "This Opinion Just In..." — appears in the *New York Post*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *The New Hampshire Union Leader*, and other newspapers across America.

## ART DEPARTMENT SHOWCASES SENIORS

Throughout the spring semester, senior art students displayed their talents. Art and Design senior **Caitlin Donner** shared her artistic perspective with a black and white image collection, *Immersion*, which featured water-inspired images displaying the spiritual and physical dimensions of water.



Senior Caitlin Donner shared her artistic perspective of water in her show *Immersion*.

## ASBURY THEATRE PERFORMS DOUBT: A PARABLE

Theatre students performed another challenging, relevant drama in the Greathouse Theatre in late February. The immersive story follows Catholic School Principal Sister Aloysius who suspects an inappropriate relationship between parish priest Father Flynn and a young student, but is Flynn as clearly guilty as Sister Aloysius believes him to be? Along with the audience, the cast was challenged to work through the themes of the story. "*Doubt* definitely touches on some sensitive subjects, but it ultimately shows the difficulty of obtaining truth, and the consequences people may face as a result of their actions," said senior theatre student **Andrew Cox**.

## COMMUNICATION ARTS CELEBRATES HIGHBRIDGE WEEKEND

On Saturday, April 13, Asbury's School Communication Arts dedicated the John DeCuir Production Design Study Center, named after renowned Hollywood art director and production designer John DeCuir Sr. in the Andrew S. Miller Center for Communication Arts.

Film production designer John DeCuir Jr. attended the event, autographed prints and presented Asbury with an Oscar award from The King & I. Additionally, DeCuir Jr. served as a judge for the Highbridge Film Festival (HBFF) at 7 p.m. that evening.



Mid-April brought the Highbridge Film Festival and a dedication of the John DeCuir Production Design Study Center.

The John DeCuir Collection is part of the Asbury University Production Design Studies Center that features thousands of Hollywood production designs, sketches and storyboards from films dating from the 1930s to present.

The department later hosted a successful HBFF in Hughes Auditorium, showcasing the work of talented young film creators. Taking the award for Best Picture was 'TOAST.'

The weekend also was punctuated by the first awarding of the Blake and Shannon Bailey Senior Storytelling Project to **Ian Wang '24**. The Bailey Senior Storytelling Project — named in honor of donors Blake and **Shannon Czaplinski '92 Bailey** — awards \$5,000 to one junior Communication Arts major for the production of a film project their senior year.

## ASBURY HOSTS SPEAKERS ON BIBLICAL LITERACY IN RELATIONS TO TRADITION AND CULTURE

During March and April, Asbury University hosted two academics whose research interests surround biblical literacy in relation to tradition and culture: Dr. Jessica Hooten Wilson and Dr. Karen Swallow Prior. Wilson spoke at the annual SEARCH Symposium, and Prior spoke at the Honors Program Colloquium Speaker Series. Both authors shared about their upcoming books, namely *Reading for the Love of God: How to Read as a Spiritual Practice* (Wilson) and *The Evangelical Imagination: How Stories, Images & Metaphors Created a Culture in Crisis* (Prior).

Wilson serves as the inaugural Seaver College Scholar of Liberal Arts at Pepperdine University, and Prior most recently served as the Research Professor of English and Christianity and Culture at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Wilson shared about her book which conveys ways in which Christians can grow in their faith journeys.

Prior articulated the significant role language plays in daily life.

"Words, language, and literature are connected to real life: the ways that we think, communicate, and live," Prior said. "Literature teaches us how to think better and live better, how to ask better questions, and how to live more faithfully."



The National Collegiate Day of Prayer celebrated its 200th anniversary at Asbury on Feb. 23, 2023.

## ASBURY HOSTS NATIONAL COLLEGIATE DAY OF PRAYER ON HEELS OF THE OUTPOURING

On the evening of Feb. 23, 2023, Asbury joined campuses across the country to gather for a time of worship and prayer during the 200th annual National Collegiate Day of Prayer (NCDP). Originally scheduled for Asbury's Hughes Auditorium more than two years ago, God used the event as a poignant way to publicly close out the Outpouring service on Asbury's campus and serve as a commissioning of Asbury students in addition to students from around the nation, in person and via livestream.

The NCDP is adopted by different colleges and universities around the nation every year, and offers a powerful service full of guided prayer, praise and worship, repentance, the cleansing of hearts and revival amongst believers. Campuses and churches around the world are invited to join in the service. Coming on the heels of the Outpouring, NCDP and Asbury leadership partnered to adjust the format of the previously scheduled service to allow this gathering of believers to "commission" participants to take the Good News to all the world, and to have a scaled back presence of originally booked speakers that was true to the character of what God did through the Outpouring.

Phillip Wilson, serving on the leadership team of the Collegiate Day of Prayer, shared the faith-filled hopes of the annual assembly. "Our prayer is that there would be a whole host of people praying for disengaged campuses where there's no known Gospel representation and that there would be movements of God's spirit on campuses across our nation."

Have an Outpouring story? Please share it at [asbury.edu/outpouring](https://asbury.edu/outpouring).



## ASBURY SOCIOLOGIST RECEIVES BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM CHRISTIANITY TODAY BLOGGER



Dr. Lisa Weaver Swartz

Dr. Lisa Weaver Swartz, assistant professor of sociology, recently received the *Jesus Creed* Book of the Year Award from American theologian Scot McKnight for her book, *Stained Glass Ceilings: How Evangelicals Do Gender and Practice Power*. McKnight's blog, *Jesus Creed*, is a part of *Christianity Today's* Blog Forum. Published

by Rutgers University Press, Weaver Swartz's book speaks to the intersection of gender and power within American evangelicalism by examining the formation of evangelical leaders in two seminary communities.

"I was surprised and very pleased to find out about the award," Weaver Swartz said. "McKnight has been so kind in his treatment of the book. Translating sociological scholarship to a churchly audience can be quite difficult, and I hope his generous framing will help others make sense of the book's arguments and nudge them to pursue healthy conversations in their own communities."

## N.T. WRIGHT SPEAKS AT ASBURY



N.T. Wright visited Asbury in November.

On Nov. 16, 2022, renowned theologian N.T. Wright spoke in Hughes Auditorium as part of Asbury Theological Seminary's centennial celebration. Wright is an English New Testament scholar, Pauline theologian, and Anglican Bishop who has written more than 70 books for both academic and theological readers. Watch the livestream below:

[asbury.edu/life/news-events/news/2022/11/15/nt-wright](https://asbury.edu/life/news-events/news/2022/11/15/nt-wright).

## ASBURY HISTORIAN AND WEB DEVELOPER PUBLISHES ARTICLE ABOUT CHRISTIANITY IN CHINA



Dr. Alex Mayfield

Dr. Alex Mayfield, assistant professor of history, co-published an article about his work with the China Historical Christian Database, an international, multi-institution project which quantifies the history of Christianity in China from 1550 to 1950. His article, "Leaping the Digital Gorge: Datasets, Digital Aesthetics, and the China Historical

Christian Database," was published in the *Journal of Digital Humanities* 数字人文.

"We live in a time defined by the connections and disruptions of globalization, and many followers of Christ can find the constant swirl of change hard to grasp or even fear-inducing," Mayfield said, regarding his findings. "If anything, I hope my research illustrates that the Christian movement has always been a communal experiment in intercultural exchange." More information about Mayfield's research may be viewed here: [asbury.edu/about/directory/alex-mayfield](https://asbury.edu/about/directory/alex-mayfield).

## ASBURY ANNOUNCES NEW FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

The Transition and Guidance Program (TAG) is a platform to help new students build community when they arrive in Wilmore. As a result of institutional research and evaluation, the program is evolving into the University's new First-Year Experience (FYE) Program in Fall 2023. In addition to building social belonging, the new FYE Program will focus on academic belonging. Under the direction of the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE), FYE will provide incoming students with an even more supportive and holistic experience throughout their first year of college.

## ASBURY BIOLOGY PROFESSOR AND STUDENTS CONSERVE FORESTS THROUGH HONEYSUCKLE RESEARCH

Assistant Professor of Science and Health Dr. Marvin Ruffner's Shaw School of Sciences students play a role in mitigating honeysuckle growth through regularly conducting research alongside their professor. The research series (primarily conducted in the spring) began in 2019 with **Madeline Cox '20 Guivas** and has continued with other students such as **Abigail Garland '25** and **Andrew Nelson '23**. Garland recently gave a poster presentation at the Kentucky Association of Science conference. Her topic involved the survivability of seedlings from Chinkapin Oak trees near honeysuckle, which is an invasive species.



Dr. Marvin Ruffner, pictured with students at the Asbury Farm, is working on a forest conservation project.

"I strongly feel each one of us can contribute to managing honeysuckle even on a small scale to help keep it in check," Ruffner said. "Some ways involve removing it from personal properties and/or volunteering to help remove honeysuckle in our natural areas (i.e., parks, nature preserves, state and national forests, wildlife management areas, etc.)."

To learn more about why Christians should care about creation, Dr. Ruffner recommends resources from the BioLogos Foundation, a Christian advocacy group: [biologos.org/common-questions/why-should-christians-care-for-creation](https://biologos.org/common-questions/why-should-christians-care-for-creation).

## ASBURY STUDENTS EARN TOP RANKINGS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Three Asbury students ranked among the top scorers for research presentations given at the Kentucky Academy of Science's 2022 Annual Meeting in November. More than 700 students and professional scientists from across the state attended the Annual Meeting, which was held Nov. 10-12, 2022, at Morehead State University. Panels of scientists who judged students' research presentations designated top-tier presentations as "Thoroughbreds." Asbury students who earned the "Thoroughbred" designation were:

### ASBURY "THOROUGHbred" DESIGNATION

Participant	Presentation
<b>Sara Brewer '24</b>	<b>Poster Presentation:</b> "eDNA detection of northern red, spring, and mud salamanders in eastern Kentucky streams."
<b>Abigail Fletcher '23</b>	<b>Poster Presentation:</b> "eDNA detection of darters (Percidae: Etheostomatinae) in central Kentucky streams."
<b>Brendan Jeffrey '23</b>	<b>Poster Presentation:</b> "eDNA detection of four toed salamanders ( <i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i> ): significance of mitochondrial genome region in primer."

**Dr. Ben Brammell '98**, professor of biology, mentors these students and shared his congratulations. "It has truly been a privilege to work with these students," Brammell said. "Their accomplishments are the result of not only their talent but also largely due to the effort they have put forth in the lab over the last eight months."

## ASBURY STUDENTS COMPETE IN INTERNATIONAL MATH MODELING COMPETITION

This year marked Asbury's 36th year of participation in the COMAP International Math Modeling Competition. Teams worked around the clock from Thursday, February 16, until Monday, February 20, to construct solutions to real-life problems. Teams submitted their papers to the COMAP competition, with results announced in mid-to-late May.

"The competition is a culmination of the values that the Math Department seeks to instill in our students: teamwork and collaboration, persevering to solve difficult problems, and engaging in critical and creative thinking," said **Dr. Cheryll Crowe '03 Johnson**, who serves as associate dean of the Shaw School of Sciences and professor & chair of the Department of Mathematics. "Whether a student chooses to enter graduate school or the workplace after Asbury, mathematicians no longer work in isolation. This competition parallels the environment our students will experience beyond the walls of Asbury."

### 2023 MATH MODELING TEAM

Team Type	Members
<b>Problem C</b>	<b>Silas Behnke '25, Sara Gantz '25, Colin Ingalls '25</b>
<b>Problem C</b>	<b>Caleb Bill '24, Seth Haughton '25, Josiah Smith '23</b>
<b>Problem E</b>	<b>Josef Morstatt '24, Hayden Smeal '25, Katherine Stanley '24</b>
<b>Problem E</b>	<b>Cody Akridge '26, Andrea Collett '24, Willem Hanssen '24</b>

Learn more about COMAP's official problem statements this year: [contest.comap.com/undergraduate/contests/mcm/contests/2023/problems](https://contest.comap.com/undergraduate/contests/mcm/contests/2023/problems).

## EQUIPPING THE MIND FOR GOOD THROUGH LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

*Asbury hires education veteran Dr. Sherry Powers '77 as new Provost and Chief Academic Officer*



New Provost and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Sherry Powers '77 served as Asbury's Dean of Education from 2012-2016.

In a technologically advancing world with an eager, ever-changing culture and a loss of integrity-based problem solving coupled with a workforce that rewards mechanical task-checking as a universal value, the question asked regarding liberal education is, what is the value?

With that, Asbury recently announced a new Provost and Chief Academic Officer, **Dr. Sherry Powers '77**. She comes to Asbury with more than 20 years of experience in higher education, most recently spending the last six years of her career at Eastern Kentucky University as Dean of the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences.

Powers served at Asbury as Dean of Education from 2012-2016. She was previously a professor, associate dean and the director of the School of Teacher Education in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at Western Kentucky University. Before entering higher education, Powers had a career in social work, taught elementary education and worked as a reading specialist. Her leadership and rich education experience help further the mission of Asbury through her work with faculty, staff and students.

The educational philosophy of Asbury is an intentional call for students to pour everything — meaning, language, creation, problem-solving, and love-centered relational abilities — into their lifelong journey of learning and applying what they have wrestled through in their academics and experiences.

Powers discussed the vitality of how we use what we are taught, and it is not so much the act of learning our set of skills, but the appropriate and moral ways we use and apply them in the workforce.



# The future speaks

## Asbury seniors eye the future and where God is calling them

There comes a time in college when everyone asks, What's next? Several Asbury seniors discuss where they see themselves post-graduation and what invaluable lessons they will carry with them into their future journeys.

**Q:** What are your future plans and goals?

**A:** *I plan to continue my education by getting my Master of Business Administration in nonprofit management through the Dayton School of Business, and eventually, a doctorate in marketing. All of which will set me up for success in media missions. This summer, I will work as an intern with a media ministry in Madrid, Spain, working with their graphics and marketing teams for their upcoming film adaptation of Esther. I have high hopes for what media missions can do with spreading the Gospel. I hope to one day lead my own media missions organization and impact the world of Christ.*



**Hannah Wall '23**  
Graphic Design & Marketing double major

**A:** *My future plans consist of getting married to **Ashlynn King '22** this summer, graduating with my MBA from Asbury in May, and fulfilling the work hours requirement of the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) certification to become a licensed CPA by this fall. I plan to continue working at EY as a tax accountant and serve clients concerning their tax matters within the financial services industry. I strive to follow the Dayton School of Business motto: to be the best for the world. For me, that means learning how to be an excellent client-serving professional and striving to make a positive impact in the community of Cincinnati.*



**Evan Kinniard '23**  
Master of Business Administration graduate

**Q:** How has studying at Asbury prepared you for the future?

**A:** *Studying at Asbury has helped me to develop my own sense of critical thinking. In my courses, I've been able to read a wide array of authors from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Additionally, the psychology program and its professors have been personal role models to me as both psychologists*



**Timothy Buckler '23**  
Psychology major

*and Christians. I feel fully prepared to enter into graduate school in clinical mental health counseling.*

*At Asbury I also have learned to have a softer heart. I know my future will always be to follow Jesus and to serve others. I believe God is calling me to places where I can love and encourage others.*

**A:** *I have learned so much more than mere textbook learning at Asbury. I have been able to grow in my relationship with others and most importantly, God. I have learned critical thinking skills and how to implement my faith into my work. I see that my work as an accountant is as much a call to ministry as any other major and learned that we are all called into specific fields for the Kingdom. Romans 12 speaks beautifully into this concept as we are all unique in our calling and gifting, but we are also a part of the body of Christ. Just as the eyes are so crucial to the body for seeing, our feet are crucial to walking. They do different functions in the body, but they are both very important.*



**David Noel '23**  
Accounting major

**Q:** What are some lessons that you learned in the past four years that you will take into the future?

**A:** *I learned many lessons during my time at Asbury. The most important lesson, though, is this: You can depend on God. You can depend on other people He has placed in your life. We are not meant to do this life alone, and if you prioritize your relationship with Him, He will surround you with people who can speak encouragement and challenge over you. Yet, you must surrender time, control, and desires. He wants you. So, if you spend time with Him (and implement life-changing spiritual disciplines like Sabbath), He will alter everything you thought you knew and lead you toward a life you never thought was possible.*



**Lexie Presta '23**  
Christian Ministries & Journalism double major

**A:** One thing I learned during my three years at Asbury is to stay curious about people. As a multi-ethnic person, there was some apprehension that Asbury wouldn't be easy, but one of my favorite memories I'll keep with me is having the opportunity to engage in life with my peers. Having those tough conversations cultivated a beautiful exchange of experiences.



**Michael McClellan '23**  
Media Communications major

**A:** The medical field needs God, and I feel God is calling me into health insurance. When I graduate, I'm moving to Indiana to work full-time for Anthem. Asbury enabled me to learn how to communicate and stand up for the truth. With professors and peers that really care, I've also learned to tackle diverse challenges. God. He exists in perfect relationship with the other members of the Trinity. It is because of the outpouring of the love within the Trinity mankind was made. Since we reflect His image, we are made to do life together and need each other.



**Josiah Smith '23**  
Actuarial Mathematics major

**A:** The most important lesson I learned is that everyone around me is created in the Image of God (Imago Dei). This is something we throw around a lot, but when you stop and think about what this means, it reframes all your interactions with people. This lesson is something I remind myself of daily. Another important lesson I learned is we are created from community for community. We are made by the triune God. He exists in perfect relationship with the other members of the Trinity. It is because of the outpouring of the love within the Trinity mankind was made. Since we reflect His image, we are made to do life together and need each other.



**Kyla Rowell '23**  
Intercultural Studies major

**A:** Since I've been at Asbury, I have learned the importance of building community. I've grown so much relationally and spiritually from the friendships and mentors in my four years here. After graduation, I will be working at a nonprofit health clinic. I'm excited to see what God will teach me in the next few years. My passion is to serve and work among vulnerable populations. My time at Asbury has prepared me for the "real world" in such a unique way to go out for ministry. God is everywhere and in all things.



**Jena Pelletier '23**  
Sociology major

**SUMMIT**  
ASBURY UNIVERSITY

June 19-23

*Faith in the Marketplace*

Summit Camp is designed to engage teens with today's top worldview thinkers and apologists and equip them to stand for truth in the marketplace while experiencing Christ in a new way.

Learn more: [asbury.edu/summitcamp](http://asbury.edu/summitcamp)



# AU Basketball Teams Enjoy Banner Seasons

The 2022-23 basketball season was exciting and successful for Asbury's men's and women's teams, as both squads earned the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Midwest Regional Championship and a trip to the NCCAA National Championship Tournament March 15-17 in Winona Lake, Ind.



Trinity Shearer '24, left, was named NCCAA Third-Team All-American, and Nick Fort '22, below, earned NCCAA First-Team All-American honors for the 2022-23 basketball season.



## MEN'S BASKETBALL



Will Shouse '02

**Will Shouse '02**, the NCCAA Midwest Region Coach of the Year, guided Asbury to the top winning percentage in school history with a 21-7 record (.750). Seven members of the team, including four of the starting five, earned NCCAA Scholar Athlete honors. The recipients must be a junior, senior or graduate student with a cumulative GPA of 3.40 or above.

The Eagles were led by graduate student **Nick Fort '22** who is earning an MBA. The Shelbyville, Ky., native was named NCCAA First Team All-American and NCCAA Midwest Region Player of the Year for the second straight year. In his final season at AU, Fort was the NCCAA's second-leading scorer at 23.9 points per game and led the NCCAA in rebounds per game (10.6). The six-foot-six forward also recorded 18 double-doubles. Point guard **Caleb Wallis '24** was named to the NCCAA First Team All-Midwest Region Team. Wallis was the team's second-leading scorer averaging 12.5 points per game. He also led the Eagles with 98 assists. **Dakota Walden '23** was named to the Second Team All-Midwest Region Team. He averaged 11.9 points and 4.2 rebounds per game.

Guard **Trinity Shearer '24** was named NCCAA Third-Team All-American and First-Team All-Midwest Region. She averaged 13.3 points, 3.7 rebounds, 3.0 assists per game, and finished the year with the second-most steals in a season (75) in AU history. **Jaclynn Ruble '23** was named to the NCCAA Second-Team All-Midwest Region Team. She led the team in three-pointers with 45 and joined the Asbury 1,000 career point club on February 14. **Haleigh Releford '25** was named to the NCCAA Second-Team All-Midwest Region Team. She led the Eagles in scoring (13.9 points per game) and rebounding (5.2 rebounds per game).

## NCCAA Scholar Athletes

### MEN'S TEAM

**Bryce Beavers – Sr.**

**Alex Carpenter – Jr.**

**Nick Fort – Gr.**

**Jason Law – Sr.**

**John Shoulders – Sr.**

**Dakota Walden – Sr.**

**Caleb Wallis – Jr.**

### WOMEN'S TEAM

**Meagan Bellamy – Sr.**

**Kayla Harlow – Jr.**

**Jaclynn Ruble – Sr.**

**Trinity Shearer – Jr.**



← Scan here to read  
Nick Fort's AU journey

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Chad Mayes

Coach Chad Mayes led the Eagles to a 19-11 record, including victories in nine of the last 11 games of the season. Four members of the Midwest Region Championship team were named NCCAA Scholar Athletes, while Mayes received NCCAA Midwest Region Coach of the Year honors.

## AU SWIMMERS EARN CONFERENCE AND ACADEMIC HONORS

The Asbury swimming teams concluded the 2022-23 season competing at the Liberal Arts Conference Championship, Elsah, Ill., Feb. 8-11. Under the leadership of first-year head coach **Graham Duncan '16**, several swimmers earned Conference Championships and recorded personal bests. The women's team placed second overall and the men finished third in the expanded field from a year ago.



TeamAU had a solid showing in the pool this season, including earning high academic accolades.

The College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) recently named its Scholar All-America Teams for the fall 2022 semester. The Asbury women's swimming team was named a Scholar-America Team with a strong 3.55 overall team GPA, while the men's team was also named a Scholar All-America Team with a 3.25 team GPA.

### Women's Conference Individual Champions

1650 FREESTYLE – **Amber Schulte – Jr.**      400 FREESTYLE RELAY – **Amber Schulte – Jr., Claire Hentrup – Fr., Sarah Finlayson – Fr., Emily Poll – Jr.**  
 100 FREESTYLE – **Sarah Finlayson – Fr.**  
 200 BUTTERFLY – **Maria Poll – Jr.**

### Men's Conference Individual Champions

200 BREASTSTROKE – **Ian Wang – Jr.**      200 BUTTERFLY – **Tommy Johnson – Sr.**



Baseball coach Manny Cervantes earned his 200th career win on March 30.

## CERVANTES CAPTURES 200TH WIN



Manny Cervantes

Manny Cervantes earned his 200th career victory as the Asbury baseball head coach on March 30. Since becoming AU's first full-time baseball coach in 2014, Cervantes has built a program that is committed to developing students athletically, academically, and spiritually. His thorough and consistent approach has resulted in the Eagles posting an impressive 96-42 record (.696) in the past three and half seasons.

"I'm humbled and grateful God has given me the opportunity to steward Asbury's baseball program these past nine years," Cervantes said. "The Lord has blessed the program with many good players, families, coaches, and staff over the years. I'm thankful for the wins and success, but I'm most grateful for allowing us to use the game of baseball to influence young men and others towards the abundant life and hope we have in Jesus. I'm excited to see what God has in store in the future for AU Baseball."

Watch all TeamAU home events on the Asbury Sports Digital Network at [AsburySportsDigitalNetwork.com](http://AsburySportsDigitalNetwork.com).



In January, Asbury broke ground on the Phase I of the Outdoor Venue, which includes a track and turf field.

## ASBURY BREAKS GROUND ON OUTDOOR VENUE

*Phase I of the facility will accommodate the new track and field program*

On January 18, 2023, Asbury broke ground on the fully funded Phase I of the multi-use Outdoor Venue project that will allow for growth of the school's new intercollegiate track and field program and provide a new field for men's and women's soccer. The \$5 million initial phase includes an eight-lane track, turf field, lighting and fencing and is expected to be open during the 2023 fall semester.

"We are deeply moved by the generosity and support for this vision to build an outdoor venue that will serve the entire campus community and provide a place for student-athletes to train and compete," said Vice President of Athletics & University Communications **Mark Whitworth '84**. "God continues to work in the hearts of students at Asbury and this facility will create new opportunities for transformational change to take place. We are humbled and thankful!"

The University is still actively fundraising for the second phase of the project that will include spectator seating, locker rooms, public restrooms, and a press box/event space.

Visit [asbury.edu/outdoor-venue](http://asbury.edu/outdoor-venue) for more information and to give to the project.



Phase II of the new Outdoor Venue includes space to host events.



The Paul A. and Kay F. Rader Student Center was dedicated on March 3, 2023, and honored the more than 1,700 donors who gave for the project.

# Rader Student Center Opens Doors For Campus

20



The newly renovated Paul A. and Kay F. Rader Student Center (The STUCE) in the center of campus was dedicated in a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 3 in an event that honored the more than 1,700 donors who gave to the project. The renovation was supported through reunion gift project donations and through significant gifts by The Salvation Army to honor the Raders.

"We are thrilled to have our Student Center back," said Student Body President **Alison Perfater '23**. "Not only did we miss having a designated space for downtime and events, but entering the next phase of the campus's spiritual revival, I have already seen students sitting and praying together over coffee in the STUCE. I'm excited to see how the Lord will continue to use this space for His glory!"

Constructed in 1927, the newly enhanced building originally served as the Morrison Library. It was named in honor of Dr. Henry Clay Morrison, who served two terms as Asbury's president. The library was expanded in 1958, and the new wing was named in honor of Jay B. Kenyon, a 1908 alumnus who served Asbury as science professor, dean of men and academic dean. After the Dennis F. and Elsie B. Kinlaw Library opened, the Morrison-Kenyon building was remodeled to serve a new purpose and opened in 2007 as the Student Center.

Student Life professionals, and other staff members moved back into offices in the facility, which features additional square footage for renovated student government and staff offices. The expanded footprint also allowed for new meeting and community spaces with beautiful views of the new Moulton Commons, an outdoor plaza. The bottom floor brings the campus store and post office to the heart of campus, so mail pickup, Asbury apparel, or study materials can be accessed while hanging out at the STUCE.

"I think students have been pleasantly surprised at the quality and function of the new Student Center," said Dr. Mark Troyer, vice president for Institutional Advancement & Strategic Partnerships. "The outdoor spaces at the cafeteria and Shaw Collaborative Learning Center are wonderfully enhanced by new areas outside the Rader Student Center."

Visit [asbury.edu/projects/rader-student-center](https://asbury.edu/projects/rader-student-center) to learn more about the Raders and the new Rader Student Center.

# Wow, God's Provision is Amazing!

I am still personally processing all that happened at Asbury during the Outpouring — marveling at both the powerful manifestation of God's holy presence among us and the abundance of resources He supplied to us in logistical and financial support. Little did we grasp, at first, the scope and the size of what the Lord was doing!

Sixteen days and 50,000 new friends later, we are awestruck at how thoroughly God provided for something He'd obviously planned well in advance (and we hadn't... at all!). From more than 1,300 volunteers; to restaurants, organizations and individuals who provided food; to additional security and police protection; to equipment donated or loaned; to people just giving us checks saying, "We know you'll have expenses, and we want to help!"

A little peek behind the curtain: We decided within the first couple of days to shut down our fundraising efforts during this event to avoid any appearance of taking advantage of what the Holy Spirit was doing. The significant expense it took to host people from across the globe is being covered by currently more than 1,000 donors — most of whom (more than 80 percent) were previously unknown to us.

What the LORD plans, HE provides for. We are deeply grateful to have been a part of this and profoundly inspired

by the stories we continue to hear of lives being redeemed, healed and transformed as a result. Wow!

One of my favorite stories involves a friend from Lexington who came one morning wanting to help. She had told her husband, "I bake great banana bread," and then showed up with enough banana bread to feed the first 30 people in line (who happened to be the only 30 people in line) for one of the last 7:30 p.m. services. Loaves and fishes, anyone?!

Please continue to pray that our Heavenly Father will grant us further wisdom, discernment, guidance and adequate provision as we mobilize to send out students, faculty and staff to share the blessings we have received from God. Jehovah-Jireh is so good!



**Dr. Mark Troyer**  
Vice President for  
Institutional Advancement  
& Strategic Partnerships

## What Legacy Will You Leave?

**We all desire to lead happy and fulfilled lives surrounded by family and friends.**

But for many of us, we are also compelled to make a difference — to leave a lasting impact on the people most dear to us and the Kingdom causes that we have supported throughout our lives. Our desire to be thoughtful, wise stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us leads us to look to the future. What kind of legacy will you leave?

Please contact us to learn how you can create a legacy through your Last Will and Testament or Living Trust to care for your loved ones and to continue the Kingdom work you feel called to support.

**RANDY NELSON,**  
AVP for Lead and Planned Giving

**plannedgiving@asbury.edu • (859) 858-5544**





Spring 2023

# Class Notes

## 1970s

**Mike Powers '74** was chosen as the organizer of the Transitional Conference Advisory Team to help create a provisional conference of the Global Methodist Church in Kentucky.

**Clemens Russell '78** published a book of devotions called, "Cultivating a Holy Heart." It was published by WestBow Press and is available for purchase on Amazon.

**Sherry Willis '75** Lewton published her memoir, "Over the River and Through the Fire: Journeying to Overcome the Roadblock Called Self." It is a heartfelt testimony of God's love. It is published by Christian Faith Publishing and is available for purchase from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, iTunes, Books a Million and Target. **3**

## 1980s

**Gary Wheeler '83** published his fifth book, "Unseen Warfare." It is a fictional account of discovering the unseen, yet very real, spiritual warfare

that is going on around us. For more information, visit [garykwheeler.com](http://garykwheeler.com).

**Matthew Lentsch '87** is the Executive Director of Development and Governmental Affairs for the city of Mishawaka, Ind. His family recently moved to Mishawaka after working with military families in Fayetteville, N.C.

## 1990s

Bill and **Maureen Miller '92 Miller** announce the arrival of their granddaughters Lila Grace and Emory Wren in October 2020 and October 2021, respectively.

**Trey Sewell '94** is the Field International Director of Growth Partners for Seed Co. He spent time recently in Kenya with **Bishop Robert Lang '76**, who is a good friend and former classmate. **1**

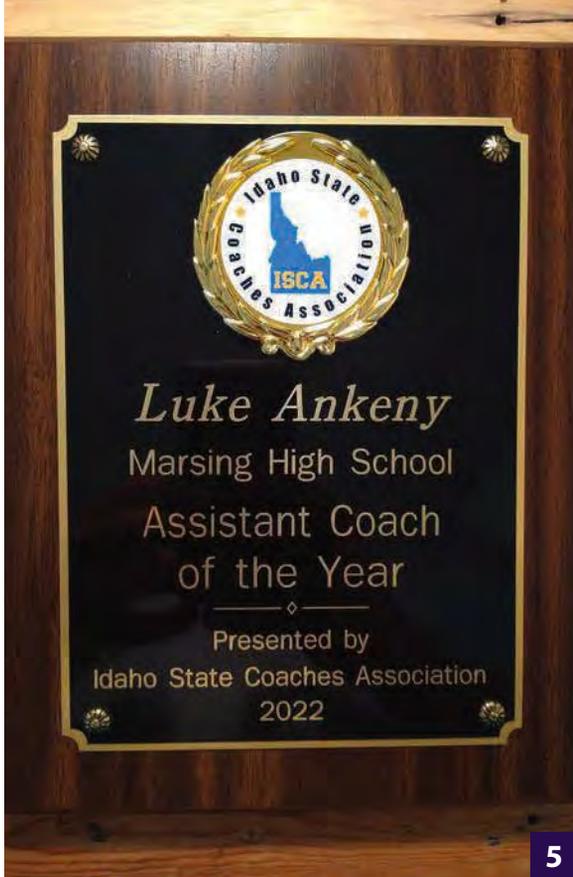
**Heidi Raass '97** Spencer works at a public relations firm, the Pinkston Group, in Washington, D.C.

**Erinn Cameron '97** was recently awarded the Feminist Africa research and publishing award for her work investigating the feminist struggles around violence against women and climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa. She has also been selected as a 2023-2024 Fogarty Global Health Postdoctoral Fellow by the HBNU committee at Harvard University.

**Carrie Booth '99** Schmidt recently co-authored the book, "Getting Past the Publishing Gatekeepers," published by Scrivenings Press. She was the co-director of Evangelical Christian Publishers Association's Art of Writing Conference in November 2022.

## 2000s

**Luke Ankeny '01** was recognized by the Idaho State Coaches Association as the Assistant Coach of the Year for all sports. He is currently the Executive Director at Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring Committee and The Housing Authority of the City of Marsing. **5**



## Reunion Gift Project 2023

### DONATING CLOSE TO HOME

*Reunion Gift Project focuses on residence hall community spaces*

If you ask an Asbury University alum their favorite part about life at Asbury, there's a good chance they will mention their residence hall community! With more than 85 percent of the student body living on campus, life together is a key piece of the Asbury experience.

Each year, the banner-year reunion classes come together to fund a project of significant importance. This year's Reunion Gift Project will raise funds for the renovation and remodeling of common spaces in one men's and one women's residence hall.

Asbury's dormitories mix athletes and non-athletes, all kinds of majors, extracurriculars and class years to give students the opportunity to form meaningful relationships with friends all across campus! Each hall has its own mascot, theme, brother/sister hall, special outings, and weekly Bible study. Each dorm has unique events from Johnson Christmas to Kresge Kandyland! Students are deeply formed by the time they spend with the men and women they live with, whether its studying together, rearranging furniture in the rooms, decorating for events, or simply having transformative conversations late into the night.

The chairs of the Reunion Class Gift Project this year put it perfectly: "We are looking forward to seeing the smiles on the student faces when they see their remodeled community spaces in the residence halls. We all remember our days on campus, gathering with friends. These community spaces are also an important first impression in the recruitment process. Join us in supporting this worthwhile project!" — **David '68 & Fran Corbly '68 Upperman**

To make a gift to the project, visit [asbury.edu/reuniongift](http://asbury.edu/reuniongift)

**Karen Day '01** Riel is the CEO of Christian Family Credit Union in Ohio and Indiana serving the United Methodist and Christian community since 1939.

**Misti Tidman '02** married John Soehnlén on Sept. 17, 2022, at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Canton, Ohio.

**Zach Neumann '03** was promoted to the position of Senior Coordinator of World Languages and English as a Second Language for Norfolk Public Schools. Zach earned his M.Ed. in Educational Leadership in May 2021 from Old Dominion University.

**Ruth Hauck '04** is currently working on a new project creating music and content for kids with a meaningful message. She is the founder of TheoTunes and the character Evangel Lamb. **2**

### 2010s

**Eric Shelton '11** is the IT Manager for the Kentucky Arts Council.

**Whitney Ward '12** released her new book, "They Came with Haste" with Elk Lake Publishing. It is available for purchase on Amazon.

**Elinor Blankenship '12** was honored as a Top Presenter at the National Afterschool Association's 2022 Conference for her session "Team Building: It's in the Bag" and "The Magic of STEM." **4**

**Kenton Sena '12** was named a 2022 Great Teacher by the University of Kentucky Alumni Association.

**Alexandra Sizemore '13** Steury opened Magnolia Dentistry in Nicholasville, Ky. She offers all forms of dentistry, including cosmetic dentistry, with a spa-like experience. Visit [magnoliadentistryky.com](http://magnoliadentistryky.com) for more information.

**Joshua Kulah '16** married Christiana Siah N'Tow.



# IN MEMORIAM

To report a listing for In Memoriam, please contact **Kim Spillman** in the Office of Advancement at **kimberly.spillman@asbury.edu** or (859) 858-5173.

## Alumni

**Laura Hyland '48 Weymouth,**  
Artist/Librarian, 7/31/2022,  
Lincoln, NE

**Kathleen Presley '49 Bumpus,**  
Education/Ministry, 9/10/2022,  
Naperville, IL

**Ilene Mosher '49 Douce,**  
Medical Missionary, 11/19/2022,  
Columbia, MO

**Joyce Maddy '51 Lenhoff Bason,**  
Business Owner/Management,  
9/21/2022, St. Marys, GA

**Rev. Mary Cornatzer '51**  
**Berridge,** Ministry, 1/27/2023,  
Custer, KY

**Dr. Wallace Swanson '52,**  
Medical Missionary,  
10/26/2022, Minneapolis, MN

**Lt. Col. John Alexander USAF**  
**(Ret) '53,** Education  
Administrator/Military/Pilot,  
11/30/2022, Saint Simons  
Island, GA

**Rev. Owen Womack '53,**  
Ministry/Missions, 12/5/2022,  
Berkeley Springs, WV

**Esther Postina '54 Bryant,**  
Music Education/Musician,  
2/13/2023, Richardson, TX

**Dorothy Butler '55 Barkwill,**  
Ministry Administration,  
12/7/2022, Belvidere, IL

**Mary Harrison '55,**  
Education, 10/26/2022,  
Erlanger, KY

**Joyce Henry '56 Bowersox,**  
Education/Ministry, 9/25/2022,  
York, PA

**Diane Pedersen '56 Shanebeck,**  
Education, 6/13/2022,  
Spring Valley, CA

**Jean Kraus '56 Williams,**  
Education/Homemaker,  
1/8/2023, Fulton, MD

**Larry Gaskill '57,**  
Foreman/Missions/Veteran,  
1/24/2023, Berne, IN

**Dr. Donald Grant '57,**  
Psychology, 7/28/2021,  
Clarksville, TN

**Dr. Eston Harward '57,**  
Ministry/Volunteer, 10/6/2022,  
Pickens, SC

**Rev. Kenneth Paul '57,**  
Christian Education/Ministry,  
10/9/2022, Shreveport, LA

**Doreen Babcock '58 Hawley,**  
Christian Education/Missions,  
12/1/2022, Markham, ON  
CANADA

**Rev. Maurice '58 Hibbard,**  
Military Chaplain/Ministry,  
11/21/2022, Richmond, KY

**Rev. Wilbert Hoffman '58,**  
Ministry/Oysterman,  
1/22/2023, North Port, FL

**Alice Beer '59 Eckardt,**  
Nursing, 9/14/2022, Palmyra, PA

**Anitia "Clarice" Polk '59**  
**Johnson,** Education,  
1/4/2022, Sebring, FL

**Mary Lou Pilson '59 Johnson,**  
Analyst/Federal Government,  
1/5/2023, Falls Church, VA

**Maxine Ball '59 Rinehart,**  
Education/Seamstress,  
1/29/2023, Rootstown, OH

**Dorothy "Dottie" Parker '60**  
**Dean,** 6/29/2022, Lansing, MI

**Maj. Juanita Cochran '60**  
**Russell,** Education/Salvation  
Army Officer, 10/25/2022,  
Lexington, KY

**Lt. Col. Evangeline Lovegrove**  
**'61 Collins,** Missions/Salvation  
Army Officer, 1/8/2023, Port  
Orange, FL

**Dr. Lloyd "Bud" Gallimore Jr. '62,**  
Education, 10/30/2022,  
Charlotte, NC

**Sylvia Fingar '62 Lange,**  
Missions/Special Education,  
12/2/2022, Tarpon Springs, FL

**Maj. Evelyn Klaas '62 Powell,**  
Salvation Army Officer,  
10/26/2022, Snellville, GA

**Sally Sadowski '62 Rench,**  
Education/Volunteer,  
10/31/2022, Columbus, OH

**Helen Hamrick '62**  
**Thompson Westfall,** Medicine,  
11/19/2022, Williamsburg, WV

**Alyce Kirk '63 Ballard,**  
Education, 10/8/2022,  
Lawrenceburg, KY

**Zandra Huey '63 Miles,**  
Musician/Public Service,  
10/2/2022, Brunswick, GA

**Frank Vanlandingham '63,**  
Nurse Anesthetist, 8/31/2022,  
Geneva, AL

**Doris Bentley '63 Weber,**  
Program Director, 11/30/2021,  
Russellville, KY

**Jerry Williams '63,**  
Athletic Coach/Education/  
Ministry/Volunteer,

11/23/2022, Equality, IL

**Carol Counselman '65**  
**Boegemann,** Military/Musician,  
9/16/2022, Opelika, AL

**Patricia "Pat" Ciccorella '65,**  
Real Estate, 11/20/2022,  
Wilmore, KY

**Sarah Farlow '65 Dickinson,**  
Education/Retired Asbury  
Professor, 1/10/2023, Lakeland, FL

**Kenneth "Ken" Smith '65,**  
Education/Politics/Public  
Service/Real Estate, 10/8/2022,  
Kissimmee, FL

**Laura Criscoe '66 Jones,**  
Education/Nursing, 12/20/2022,  
Clinton, MS

**Catherine Dillon '67 Wheeler,**  
Education, 10/19/2022, Vinton, VA

**Beverly Walker '68 Williams,**  
Christian Education,  
10/21/2022, Adams, NY

**Rev. Paul Morgan '69,**  
Architect/Former Asbury Alumni  
Board Member/Ministry,  
11/26/2022, Pike Road, AL

**Judith "Judy" Smith '70 Pierson,**  
Social Work/Special Education,  
10/11/2022, Knoxville, TN

**Lois Champion '70 Waggoner,**  
Education/Librarian/Missions,  
2/12/2023, Delavan, IL

**John Gillispie '71,**  
Development/Education/  
Ministry/Veteran, 10/23/2022,  
Wilmore, KY

**Paula Parker '71,**  
Ministry, 1/12/2023, Muncie, IN

**Maj. Dr. John Rhemick '71,**  
Author/Salvation Army Officer,  
11/7/2022, Spring Hill, FL

**Rev. V. James Durbano '73,**  
Athletic Coach/Ministry,  
10/22/2022, Claymont, DE

**Charles "Chaz" Wu '73,**  
Medical Technologist,  
7/1/2022, Hong Kong

**Laurie Robb '75,**  
Children's Ministry, 9/15/2022,  
The Woodlands, TX

**David Beam '77,**  
Contractor/Missions/Retail,  
2/4/2023, Winston Salem, NC

**Nathan "Nate" Mowery '77,**  
Former Alumni Board  
President/Former Asbury  
Trustee/Healthcare  
Administrator, 1/25/2023,  
Indianapolis, IN

**David Puckett '77,**  
Music Conductor/Music Education,

1/28/2023, Destin, FL

**Rev. Dr. Donald LaFaber '78,**  
Counselor/Military Chaplain/  
Ministry, 10/18/2022,  
Martinsburg, WV

**Dr. Ola Madsen '80,**  
Business Owner/Education/  
Professional Speaker,  
9/28/2022, Lexington, KY

**Mark Hauser '81,**  
12/26/2022, San Antonio, TX

**Mac Nicholls '82,**  
Baker/Business Owner, 1/20/2023,  
Bridgetown, BARBADOS

**Rev. Donald "Don" Reed '83,**  
Hospice Chaplain/Ministry,  
7/2/2022, Conyers, GA

**Pamela "Pam" Strickland '84**  
**Hayes,** Education, 9/4/2022,  
Clemmons, NC

**Rev. Robert "Bob" Wood Jr. '85,**  
Ministry/Missions, 1/27/2023,  
El Porvienen, HONDURAS

**Richard "Rich" Wright '89,**  
Business/Former Asbury  
Trustee/Former Asbury Faculty,  
1/1/2023, Wilmore, KY

**Erika Linebrink '93 Bisel,**  
Education/Homemaker,  
10/1/2022, Baltimore, OH

**Scott Sparks '96,**  
Missions, 10/12/2022,  
Vicksburg, MS

**Earl "Brad" Lewallen '97,**  
Banker/Business Owner,  
2/4/2023, Wilmore, KY

**Mindy Marker '99 Heitkamp,**  
Education, 12/3/2022,  
Englewood, OH

**Susanna "Susie" Probst '08**  
**Gorton,** Nursing, 1/3/2023,  
Lexington, KY

**Amanda "Nicole" Marx '12**  
**Morton,** Veteran, 10/25/2022,  
Wilmore, KY

**Jesse Blue** (Grad Program),  
Social Work/Veteran,  
10/2/2022, Lexington, KY

**Natalie Scates** (Grad Program),  
Social Work, 12/8/2022,  
Lexington, KY

## Friends

**Donald "Don" Aukerman,**  
12/3/2022, Delton, MI

**Richard "Dick" Barkley,**  
9/6/2022, Manns Choice, PA

**John Bode,**  
8/8/2022, Chagrin Falls, OH

**Arlene Canale Bonney,**  
4/27/2022, The Woodlands, TX

**Pastor Donald "Don" Booth,**  
12/15/2022, Clayton, OH

**Richard "Dick" Brown,**  
9/12/2021, Harrisonburg, VA

**Roy Carpenter III,**  
10/10/2022, Jasper, IN

**Thomas "Tommy" Chappell Jr.,**  
5/2/2022, Belvidere, NC

**Dr. Lynn Cooper,**  
Retired Asbury Professor and  
Department Chair/Wilmore City  
Council, 10/18/2022, Wilmore, KY

**David Day,**  
12/17/2022, Greentown, IN

**Lane Durgin,**  
9/3/2022, Mountain City, TN

**Susanne "Susie" Micha**  
**Elseroad,** 12/30/2022,  
Knoxville, TN

**Jeraldine "Jerry" Snapper**  
**Faber,** 1/7/2023, Wilmore, KY

**Belinda Greer,**  
Asbury Switchboard Operator,  
11/28/2022, Wilmore, KY

**Thomas "Tom" Heilbron,**  
11/13/2022, Nicholasville, KY

**Joel Kiathe,**  
11/4/2022, Nairobi, KENYA

**Rev. Jack King,**  
10/4/2022, Fort Wayne, IN

**James Lewis,**  
11/3/2022, Mount Laurel, NJ

**David Lowe,**  
11/27/2022, Overland Park, KS

**Charlesine McConnell McFerrin,**  
10/11/2022, Mobile, AL

**Maj. Troy Raynor,**  
11/11/2021, North Liberty, IA

**Sarah Lynn Reeves,**  
Asbury Staff, 10/17/2022,  
Lexington, KY

**Gary Rutledge,**  
10/17/2022, Shepherdsville, KY

**Frances Jean McCress**  
**Sunderland,** Asbury Trustee  
Spouse, 10/15/2022, Bryan, TX

**Nona "Jeannie" McCollum**  
**Switzer,** 1/5/2023, Collinsville, MS

**Laura LaRue Tegge,**  
2/17/2023, Cincinnati, OH

**Vivian Howsden Young,**  
1/1/2023, Olivette, MO

# Photo Finish



## THE STUDENT CENTER IS OPEN!

President Dr. Kevin Brown, left, and **David Noel '23** and **Hannah Wall '23** took advantage of the newly re-opened Rader Student Center for a quick meeting in March.

The newly renovated space includes student government offices, a new Hiccup coffee shop and a host of other environments for students to enjoy.

# IMPACT U

Asbury University Summer Camps

June 12-16 & 19-23, 2023



*We can't wait to explore with you this summer!*

Camps include: | Acting - Film | Forensic Science  
Equine - Environmental Science & Biotechnology  
Sales & Marketing | Education - Coding | Choral - Worship Arts

High School Students \$550/week



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# Reunion 2023

**June 23-25**



## **Alumni and families are invited to Asbury's annual reunion!**

Recognized classes include those ending with 3 and 8, and celebrations include special gatherings for Men's Glee Club, Choral, and Equine Program alumni. Plus, come share your Outpouring stories! **Register today at [asbury.edu/reunion](http://asbury.edu/reunion).**

*We hope you join us!*

