

AMBASSADOR

ASBURY UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2025

A full-page photograph of a person with a backpack hiking on a stone path through a dense, sun-dappled forest. The path leads down towards a stream. The scene is vibrant with green foliage and sunlight filtering through the trees.

AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO WELLNESS
AND WHOLENESS OF MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT





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1 Coach Chad Mayes was named the 2025 Collegiate Conference of the South (CCS) Women's Basketball Coach of the Year. **2** Students worship at the two-year anniversary celebration of the Outpouring. Read more on page 18. **3** Asbury's sophomore class delighted the campus with a performance of the classic musical "The Sound of Music" for its traditional sophomore production. **4** Students worshipped during the Selah music chapel. **5** Campus was a spectacular sight during a January ice storm. **6** Dr. David Hoag '86, president of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, spoke in Chapel and addressed the Board of Trustees during his visit in March. See more about Dr. Hoag on page 10. **7** Asbury's Asian Student Alliance (ASA) held a Lunar New Year event, celebrating the beginning of a new year in the Chinese calendar. **8** The Equine Program hosted its first ever police service mounts training on campus in March. It was a time for police officers from around the United States to come and learn more about their service mounts and how they are trained. **9** During spring break, there were two Set Apart Retreats — 32 students on the first and 34 on the second — at Doe River Gorge Camp and Retreat Center in Hampton, Tenn. Learn more about these incredible trips at asbury.edu/setapart. **10** Asbury men's swimming business administration major Ethan Bonow '29 earned NCAA All-American honors in the 100 Butterfly and 100 Freestyle, as the first AU student-athlete to compete in a NCAA DIII National Championship.



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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 over 130 undergraduate majors, plus degree-completion, graduate degrees and high school dual-enrollment programs to a student body of more than 1,900. 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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Human Flourishing: A Wesleyan Health Perspective

As a Christian Liberal Arts University in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition, it is not unusual to hear John Wesley quoted on our campus. Wesley was a brilliant preacher, writer, and thinker. Interestingly, though, Wesley's highest selling book during his lifetime was "Primitive Physick" — a book about diet, exercise, health, and well-being. As time has passed and we have learned more about the human body and its complexity, some of these ideas have been challenged or even downright debunked.

Yet, there is something to be learned in his writings. Possessing a full and holistic picture of the human, Wesley did not elevate spiritual health at the expense of physical or emotional well-being. Rather, he advocated training across multiple dimensions of human experience. Specifically, Wesleyan theology recognizes the interdependence between body, mind, and soul. Wesley's writing provides advice for dieting ("The great rule of eating and drinking is, to suit the quality and quantity of the food to the strength of our digestion"), exercise ("A due degree of exercise is indispensably necessary to health and long life"), and even practical suggestions related to fresh air or cold bathing.

For Asbury, this means that wholeness is not simply distilled to the spiritual edification in Hughes Auditorium or other campus spaces, as important as that is. Wholeness also relates to what we eat and put into our body, healthy relationships, community involvement, humanizing leisure time, exercise, quiet reflection, service, and thoughtful intellectual stimulation.

In addition to "holy temperaments" as Wesley would say, a full life involves cultivating judgments, sensibilities, and practices for living well.

Moreover, we have a word for this: human flourishing. This means realizing fullness and wholeness across various domains of life. At Asbury, we are educating students to be intellectually prepared, competently skilled, and deeply committed to Christian doctrine and practice. But we also want our students to live well.

And a formative Christian education should, at its best, enable students to flourish and experience God's shalom.

"A healthy, holistic life is not something to be understood as separate and disconnected from Christian thought and practice."

While we probably won't pull Wesley's tome on human health off the shelf when a medical question arises, there is something important to be learned in his desire to write it. A healthy, holistic life is not something to be understood as separate and disconnected from Christian thought and practice.

In a letter written in 1778 to a friend, Wesley writes:

"It will be a double blessing if you give yourself up to the Great Physician, that He may heal soul and body together. And unquestionably this is His design. He wants to give you . . . both inward and outward health."

As Christ-followers, we all strive for a life of "inward and outward health" — spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and morally.



Kevin J. Brown, Ph.D.
President



A Holistic Approach to Wellness

04

SINCE ASBURY'S FOUNDING, A FOCUS ON HEALTH AND WHOLE-PERSON DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN A KEY PRIORITY



John Wesley stressed whole-person development in the Christian life.

In 1890, John Wesley Hughes, founder of Asbury University (College), shared the importance of holistic education in his essay, "Why I Founded Asbury College."

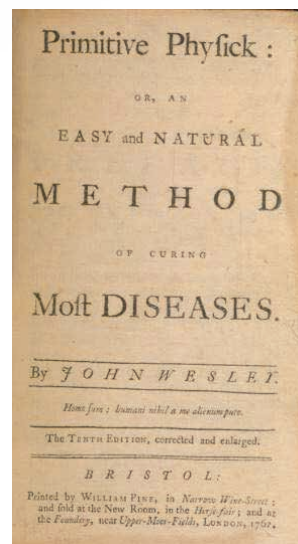
"Asbury's sole objective was to develop the entire man. I believed then, as I do now, that a well-rounded education involved a genuine Christian

experience. To educate the body to the neglect of mind and the soul makes a man beastly. To educate the mind to the neglect of body and soul leads to dead intellectualism. To educate the soul to the neglect of mind and body results in fanaticism. **Out of real Christian education come three great characteristics: self-reliance, aggressiveness, and the love of individual freedom toward self, man and God, which means a power to bring things to pass.**"

For Hughes, whole-person development was integral to the Christian life.

And more than 100 years before John Wesley Hughes, John Wesley, upon whose teachings the Wesleyan-Holiness movement was founded, was also concerned with holistic well-being. He published a book in 1747 entitled "Primitive Physick: An Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Diseases."

While some of these early health modalities have been disproven, Wesley was ahead of his time. Wesley had great practical health tips. He advised people to drink high quality water, avoid sitting too much, take daily walks outside, eat healthy food in moderation, and most of all, invest in spiritual growth and prayer. And, as if torn from the playbook from a modern-day social media influencer, Wesley promoted cold bathing for better health.





Asbury's emphasis on holistic education reflects the philosophies of both Hughes and Wesley on living life well. Spiritual health is vital because physical, mental, social and emotional health are impacted by the conscious ordering of our lives in a God-ward direction.

As Asbury students navigate campus life, rigorous academics, professional and spiritual development, and athletic and extracurricular activities, they are invited into a community that supports their whole-person well-being and divine purpose in God. From specialized resources to intentional support networks to simple opportunities for fellowship and connection, students can discover pathways to overall health while successfully maintaining a demanding schedule.

"Wellness isn't about being happy and carefree all the time. Instead, it involves cultivating the resilience to navigate life's challenges without losing sight of our core identity in Christ," says Licensed Professional Counselor **Benjamin Arnold '04**. "Scripture gives us countless examples of God's children wrestling with seasons of self-doubt, anxiety, anger, and deep despair. Yet, not once does God condemn His people for their struggles. He created us as humans, fully understanding that grappling with difficult emotions is an intrinsic part of our journey."

“Wellness is reflected holistically through my physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. To be well is to find peace in my soul in all of these categories while finding ways that I fully flourish and thrive in my physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual life.”

**ELLIE
HASELOFF '26**

*Marketing Major and
Intercultural Studies Minor*



“Wellness is a holistic state of well-being that encompasses physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional health. It's about nurturing all aspects of oneself – from nourishing your body with healthy food and regular exercise to cultivating a positive mindset, growing in faith and nurturing meaningful relationships.”

**DARLINE
ATTALLA '25**

Art & Design



“Wellness is about prioritizing what truly matters and managing your time intentionally. It's having the energy to focus on what's most important, which often means being thoughtful about how you spend your time and where you invest your efforts.”

**CALEB
CLEVELAND '26**

*Marketing Major
and Finance Minor*





ASBURY FOR WHOLE-PERSON GROWTH:



Outdoor Adventures

Walking trails, cross country trails
trail rides, & midnight canoe trips



Campus Hobbies & Activities

Hammocks on the green and yard games



Club Sports & Intramurals

More than 525 students participate



Athletic Teams

More than 350 students participate



Musicals & Music Groups

More than 325 students participate



Campus Events

Movie night, dances and coffee & canvas events



Retreats, Trips, & Gatherings

Class gatherings, retreats, mission trips
and Set Apart Retreats



Groups & Clubs

Counseling groups, wellness groups, service clubs,
bands, small groups, and discipleship groups



Fitness Facilities

New outdoor track, Luce Center, Glide-Crawford gym



Worship Opportunities

GATHER (hall prayer) and
WHAM (Worship Him at Midnight)

“Asbury’s student life cares deeply and is very intentional about the whole person during a student’s time at Asbury,” said Assistant Director of Residence Life **Liz Louden ‘18**. “We recognize that we cannot compartmentalize the various aspects of a person in the pursuit of being who Christ has created us to be. Holiness, becoming more Christ-like, is holistic, involving the whole person, and we want to provide students with every opportunity for transformation and growth of their whole person. Resourcing students with the tools, practices, and community they need to live well and fully devoted to Christ while at Asbury and beyond is at the heart of what we do every day.”

HEALTH AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

In I Corinthians 6:19-20, Paul addresses the Corinthian church, urging them to recognize the sacred nature of their bodies. The passage calls for a holistic view of our complex existence as it relates to God’s purpose for us.

This understanding that spiritual vitality should lead to holistic health encouraged the University to investigate the personal and societal obstacles our students must overcome as they walk in the command to love the Lord with heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30-31).

Set Apart Retreats, required Chapel attendance, residence hall Bible studies and Worship Him at Midnight are just a few of the ways we address the need for spiritual development and discipleship. John Wesley was a pioneer

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.”

in organizing small groups known as “class meetings,” now called Bands. These groups were designed for mutual support, accountability, and encouragement. It was part of Wesley’s multifaceted concept of wellness, and Bands are found throughout campus and across the alumni family.

“Banded discipleship provides scaffolding for discipleship that invites students to bring all things into the Light before God and in community,” said Christian Life Project Director **Jeannie Banter ‘06**. “In the book of Matthew, Jesus says, ‘For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them’ (NIV). It is no wonder that when a group of 2-3 people band together in pursuit of Christ that chains are broken, healing occurs, the old becomes new, and people are set free to live in the fullness of life Christ died to give them. Bands are an instrument of grace that serve as a catalyst for spiritual formation in a heart that longs to be more like Christ.”

Asbury’s Center for Wholeness and Wellness offers students a robust range of options for addressing whole-person wellness while enrolled as a student. Student Health Services is designed to meet the medical needs of Asbury students, while the Center for Counseling is ready to engage the emotional and relational wellness of Asburians through individual, couples, pre-marital, marital, and crisis counseling.

Physical health is prioritized with programming, equipment and opportunities through Team AU athletics, fitness training, intramural sports, and fun activities for all levels and interests. Dining services offers healthy choices and cooking stations so that students have access to good nutrition.

The Center for Academic Excellence serves as a key resource for academic support. Writing tutors, peer tutors and academic coaches are dedicated to helping students improve their performance in class while becoming confident, independent learners.



NATURE AND COMMUNITY FOR BETTER HEALTH

Spending daily time in nature profoundly influences all aspects of wellness. Academic programs in Equine Science and Equine Studies, and Adventure Education and Leadership, specialize in addressing the restorative influence of the outdoors. Equine professor, licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC) and equine therapy practitioner **Cathrin Wilbanks '11** noted that one reason she thinks equine therapy is so effective for mental health is simply because it gets patients to where the horses are — outside, in nature.

“The farm was a ‘neutral ground’ that elicited in most clients a sense of playfulness and exploration that directly influenced their willingness to engage in therapy. Most of my clients didn’t consider their work with me at the farm ‘therapy’: They came to be with the animals and to explore themselves in a different context.”

While escaping an overly digitized, isolated, indoor existence as a key to wellness, **Candace McCallister '01**, a mental health therapist, emphasizes the importance of community.

“I have found that wellness is not one simple change that makes all the difference; rather it is a holistic perspective that considers the needs of the whole person — sleep, mindset, spirituality, support, diet, movement, and sense of safety and connection to people and place,” said McCallister. “I find that wellness is most possible in a community of support and care.”

At Asbury, wellness encompasses maintaining community relationships within academic departments, spiritual development, class advisor and mentor relationships, counseling, extracurricular activities, and alumni relations, as well as making intentional decisions to achieve physical and emotional holistic balance for students while they live on campus.

“Wellness means creating space for yourself to be fully rested and fulfilled in many different capacities. This can be doing something you love, using the gifts God gave you, or even taking a nap. There are so many different blessings God gave us to rest in and enjoy being well.”

MAKAYLA CARPENTER '26

*Elementary Education Major -
English as a Second Language*



“Though summing up my thoughts on wellness is a difficult task, having a healthy mind, body and SPIRIT is definitely the key to it all. When God is truly at the center of our lives, you see just how much He nourishes us not only spiritually, but our mind and body as well. It all correlates, and none of that is a coincidence. God’s design is perfect, and that is exemplified by the way He cares for us so deeply, in all facets of life.”

CELIA PELFREY '24

Asbury MBA student





"Holistic wellness is a health care approach focused on the whole being of the person. People are complex and multifaceted which leaves our healthcare systems left to specialization in parts or aspects of the individual," says Associate Dean of Wholeness and Wellness Kevin Bellew. "As patients, we are often seen as only one system without interaction and influence from other systems. I am more than a depressed or anxious individual. We all know intuitively this isn't the way we were designed."

Holistic wellness emphasizes caring for the whole person, recognizing the interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit. This understanding is especially crucial today, as younger generations face unique challenges that make a holistic approach to education and well-being more relevant than ever.

"Sadly, younger generations are unevenly burdened by the pathologies of modern life. This includes isolationism and various mental health challenges," said Asbury President Dr. Kevin Brown. "This makes whole-person education

"To educate the body to the neglect of the mind and the soul makes a man beastly. To educate the mind to the neglect of body and soul leads to dead intellectualism. To educate the soul to the neglect of mind and body results in fanaticism."

JOHN WESLEY HUGHES

relevant and important. Wesley understood that a well-furnished mind and holy heart would overflow into a holistic life characterized by judgements, practices, and sensibilities for living well."

By embracing whole-person care, Asbury acknowledges that true wellness comes from nurturing every aspect of our being, equipping individuals to live balanced, meaningful lives.

ASBURY LAUNCHES BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM



The BSN program prepares students through a rigorous academic curriculum, immersive clinical experiences, and a Christ-centered approach to patient care.

Starting this fall, Asbury will welcome its first cohort of Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students, expanding the University's offerings in the health field under the Shaw School of Sciences. This long-anticipated program reflects Asbury's commitment to holistic education and its mission to equip students for meaningful service in their vocations.

"Nursing has long been discussed at Asbury University, in addition to significant marketplace needs for a skilled nursing workforce," says President Dr. Kevin Brown.

At Asbury, wellness is more than just a trend; it is a foundational value embedded in campus life. Through innovative programs and a supportive community, the University fosters physical, mental, and social well-being in every student. The BSN program exemplifies this commitment by preparing

future nurses through a rigorous academic curriculum, immersive clinical experiences, and a Christ-centered approach to patient care.

"The nursing program has been designed to fully immerse students in a transformative journey toward understanding holistic wellness—where mind, body, and spirit unite in the caring art and science of healing," said Nursing Program Administrator Dr. Connie Lamb. "Through rigorous academics, hands-on clinical experiences, and a Christ-centered approach to care, our students will be equipped to serve with compassion, competence, and a deep commitment to whole-person health."

The program will launch with an initial cohort of 20 students, addressing a pressing need for healthcare professionals both nationally and within Kentucky. Asbury is actively seeking Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accreditation.

"A BSN program at Asbury aligns with our desire for holistic and rigorous head and heart education so our students can effectively serve the spheres they come to inhabit."

PRESIDENT DR. KEVIN BROWN

Faithful Stewards: Stories of Resilience and Legacy Giving

At the heart of faith lies a calling: a desire to share blessings, support others, and live a life of purpose. For friends and alumni of Asbury University, like **Charlene Tew '69 Lord** and **Gary George '79**, that calling has inspired extraordinary acts of generosity and faith through the creation of an ultimate gift to Asbury through their estate plan.

Their stories serve as a powerful reminder that, with God's guidance, every gift becomes an enduring legacy of hope, transformation, and gratitude.

Asbury donor Lord shares her remarkable story of survival and faith after suffering a stroke late last year, and how Asbury's estate and gift planning office and the Barnabas Foundation came alongside of her to create an estate plan blueprint. As part of her stewardship planning, she created a charitable remainder trust which will provide her a lifetime stream of income. At her promotion to Heaven, the remaining balance will benefit students at Asbury.

"I am only the steward of these assets, and they belong to God," said Lord. "He has graciously given me more than enough, and I want to be a conduit through which Asbury will thrive and continue God's work."

George followed God's calling to a life of ministry and generous giving, leading him to serve faithfully in pastoral ministry and later, create a legacy gift for future students.

Though raised in a loving Christian household, George's personal relationship with Christ began just before high school. At a youth camp known as the "Christian Youth Festival" in August 1971, he responded to an altar call and accepted Jesus as his Savior, a decision that would foster faithful discernment.

During his college years, George asked the Lord to work in his life.

"I clearly sensed God's calling to local church pastoral ministry during the spring of my sophomore year at Asbury as part of an intentional period of seeking God's will in terms of vocation," George shared.

From guiding local congregations in Ohio to his roles as a District Superintendent and Assistant to the Bishop for the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, Gary remained steadfast in his devotion to serving Christ, the church, and his community.

Inspired by a sense of profound gratitude for his Asbury education, George wanted to do more for Asbury. He worked with Asbury's Office of Estate and Gift Planning and the Barnabas Foundation to create an estate plan blueprint. This blueprint demonstrated ways that he could do more for Kingdom work and not impact his current assets during his lifetime.

"Our giving (my wife, Lorraine and me) is a heartfelt, grateful response to recognizing the formative part that Asbury played in my spiritual life and vocation," said George. "I have realized that the generosity of Asbury alumni and others helped make it possible for me to attend and graduate from Asbury, and our giving hopefully plays a small part in helping present and future Asbury students in their own respective spiritual and vocational journeys."

Contact us today to start your planned giving journey or to notify us of your existing plan to leave a legacy of faith that will change lives for generations to come. Contact the Office of Estate and Gift Planning at (859) 858-5707 or by email at giftplanning@asbury.edu.

PARTNERING FOR PURPOSE: ASBURY AND THE BARNABAS FOUNDATION

A key partner in Asbury's commitment to financial stewardship is the Barnabas Foundation, which provides valuable guidance through initiatives like estate planning, charitable giving, and stewardship education. The Barnabas Foundation helps individuals align their financial resources with their core values, fostering a spirit of caring and generosity grounded in faith.

Since its founding in 1976, the Barnabas Foundation has been dedicated to helping Christians steward their resources wisely and give generously. These services are inspired by scripture and the truth that "the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1). The Foundation offers estate and gift design services to help individuals with creative giving solutions, such as tax-reducing gifts, income-generating gifts, and making gifts beyond their lifetime through bequests or beneficiary designations in their wills or trusts. These services enable donors to support the ministries that they love while simultaneously providing for their families and honoring God.

Through a collaborative partnership, Asbury offers its alumni and friends tax-wise charitable gift and stewardship legacy planning services at no cost. These services are tailored to provide clear, confidential, and ethical guidance, rooted in a distinctly Christian worldview.

Learn more about the opportunities for estate planning and giving solutions at asbury.edu/gift-planning.



ASBURY ALUM WINS GRAMMY

Jake Halm '16 discovered a passion for audio production during his years at Asbury. He pursued a career in the music industry in Nashville, garnering production nominations and awards and working with artists such as Tauren Wells, Natalie Grant, For King + Country, Lauren Daigle, and MercyMe.

Halm, who met his wife **Madeline Vermilion '15 Halm** at Asbury, believes his University experience helped him grow in his walk with God and nurtured his talents as a creative.

"Asbury provided a great environment for not only the technical side of production but also allowed for creative exploration, and trial and error," said Halm. "It was a place where I could experiment, fail, and learn, which really helped build a solid foundation in both my skills and my faith."

After graduation, Halm quickly connected with Tedd T, Grammy Award-winning producer, songwriter, arranger, programmer, and engineer in Nashville. Working with Tedd T alongside clients mainly within the Christian music arena, Halm won a 2020 Grammy for his technical work on For King + Country's album *Burn The Ships*.

"Each project presents its own unique challenges, whether its technical, artistic, or personal," said Halm. "I am so grateful and honored to be a part of each one and work with some of the most talented and creative people in the music industry."

With the daily pressures of a thriving career in a fast-paced industry, Halm is thankful for Asbury's commitment to spiritual vitality and academic excellence.

"I think the biggest thing that has stuck with me was my growth in spiritual maturity and developing good habits in my walk with Christ," he said. "Asbury helped me form a strong foundation, not just in my technical skills but also my faith. My faith directly influences the way I approach every project, person, and challenge I encounter." **1**



ASBURY GRADUATE RECOGNIZED FOR U.S. DIPLOMATIC SECURITY LEADERSHIP

For his role in overseeing the safety and security of the U.S. Embassy and diplomats in Haiti during the ongoing violence there, then U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken named Asbury alum **Stephen Strickland '99**, a U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) supervisory special agent, the 2024 Robert C. Bannerman Diplomatic Security Employee of the Year.

"There are a lot of DSS agents around the world, and every single one of those individuals is doing meaningful work," said Strickland, who is pictured above at right with Blinken. "To be singled out is very kind and generous, and I'm grateful to do this meaningful work where you can see the impact of it on a daily basis."

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in history and harnessing a passion for law enforcement, Strickland joined DSS in 2005 and now serves as the DSS regional security officer — the senior security and law enforcement advisor to the ambassador — at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Prior to arriving in Haiti in August 2023, Strickland served in Atlanta; Dakar, Senegal; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Erbil, Iraq; Ljubljana, Slovenia; North Carolina; Peshawar, Pakistan; and at the DSS Foreign Affairs Security Training Center in Blackstone, Virginia.

Blinken commended Strickland for his exceptional leadership during the March 2024 closure of the airport in Port-au-Prince and noted that the successful assisted departure of more than 1,300 U.S. citizens and others from Haiti was an example of the dedication and professionalism of the Port-au-Prince regional security office team.

Strickland was instrumental in facilitating Kenya's leadership of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission in Haiti, and he also established the U.S. Embassy's Unmanned Aerial Systems program.

In May 2024, Strickland led the recovery effort of the bodies of U.S. citizens Davy and Natalie Lloyd, who were murdered by Haitian gang members.





Interested in hearing more from our alumni?

Listen to our "This is Asbury" podcast for more inspiring post-grad stories from our trailblazing Asburians. Visit asbury.edu/ThisIsAsbury or find it on your favorite podcast platform.

ASBURY EDUCATION ALUMNUS BECOMES PRESIDENT OF CCCU



In September 2024, **Dr. David A. Hoag '86** assumed the role of President of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU), representing more than 180 Christian institutions worldwide.

Hoag brings a wealth of experience to this position, having served as President of Warner University from 2016 to 2024. Throughout his career, he has held various advancement and executive roles at institutions such as Trinity International University, Greenville University, and Asbury University. His expertise encompasses accreditation, fundraising, and grant management, all aimed at advancing the mission of Christian higher education.

Hoag earned his bachelor's degree in education from Asbury, a master's from the University of Kentucky, and a Ph.D. in higher education from Saint Louis University.

Married to his wife Joanna for over 38 years, Dr. Hoag is also the father of two daughters, both graduates of CCCU institutions. In his new role with the CCCU, Dr. Hoag is committed to advocating for Christ-centered higher education and supporting the transformation of lives through scholarly excellence and service.

DR. ANDY MILLER III '02 IS NINTH PRESIDENT OF WBS



Wesley Biblical Seminary (WBS), an independent institution founded in 1974, welcomed **Dr. Andy Miller III '02** as its ninth president during an inaugural ceremony held last October at Madison Methodist Church near Jackson, Miss.

Dr. Miller served as academic dean of WBS prior to his appointment.

"We did not start this fire. We point back to the fire of Pentecost which is leading us forward...back to the fire that is initiated in our triune God who is actively engaged in this world and is calling us to participate in it. We have the joy and privilege of fanning that flame."

After many years of service in the Salvation Army, Miller is now an elder in the Global Methodist Church and will serve on the Commission on Ministry and Higher Education as he leads WBS in training trusted leaders for faithful churches.

"That was arguably the most challenging professional situation I've ever been in because it blurred the lines between professional and personal," Strickland said. "I'm not sure how I would've been able to manage those difficult emotions had it not been for [my faith] to fall back on." **2**

ALUM RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY FOR JOURNALISM EXCELLENCE

Anna Giaritelli '11, a homeland security correspondent for the Washington Examiner, has built a remarkable career, recently earning runner-up for the Dao Prize for Excellence in Investigative Journalism for her reporting on immigration.

Giaritelli's path to journalism began early; she launched a middle school newsletter and served as editor of her high school paper. Her passion for storytelling only deepened at Asbury. "Through classes and working on the newspaper for three years, I gained a foundation for understanding what journalism is and the ethics of it," she shared.

Her focus on homeland security emerged out of necessity. "Nothing particularly prompted me to take on this beat. Our company lacked someone covering homeland security, so I stepped into that role," Giaritelli explained. In her current position, she reports on immigration and border issues for the Washington Examiner's digital and magazine platforms.

Giaritelli acknowledges the challenges facing modern journalists, particularly ethical dilemmas and the selection of stories to pursue. "Your bias isn't necessarily how you write but what you choose to tell the public," she noted. She emphasized the importance of careful consideration in both treating people fairly and determining which issues deserve attention.

Giaritelli's faith continues to remain a source of guidance as she navigates the challenges of her career. "It's very easy to let faith fall to the wayside in order to chase the next big story or more fame. It's a constant struggle to stay rooted and focused on what actually matters in life," she said. **3**



Collegians throughout history featured coverage of historical events like the 1970 revival, hand-drawn covers and comics from student artists, and the introduction of the *Collegian* website.



Watch the special video edition interview with editor **Kaity McCracken '25** about 100 years of the *Collegian*.

QUICK HITS

Campus Corner

The Renewed Class of 2028 selected "How Great Thou Art" as their class hymn.

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY: THE ASBURY COLLEGIAN IS 100 YEARS OLD

For a century, the *Asbury Collegian* has served as the voice of the University community, chronicling the events, ideas, and experiences that have shaped generations of students, faculty, and staff.

Established in 1925, the *Collegian* has been more than a newspaper; it has been a professional experience for young writers and continues to serve as a time capsule, reflecting the heart of campus. From the historic top-floor offices of Morrison Hall to the newsroom's digital era, the *Collegian* has preserved Asbury's legacy through the stories it tells.

As we celebrate this incredible milestone, we thank the journalists who established the *Collegian* as Asbury's student voice and reflect on its decades of impact, from capturing fashion, finals week, and Hiccup drinks, to reporting extraordinary events, like the 1929 building of Hughes Auditorium, the 1970 Revival and the February 2023 Outpouring.

Below, former editors share their memories, illustrating how the *Collegian* has shaped their lives and enriched Asbury's story.

“We had a suite of four offices plus a darkroom on the top floor of old Morrison, overlooking the semi-circle. It was a sweet arrangement. My recollection is that Tuesday night was our long night and the best night of the week. Serving as editor gave me a chance to get to know Dr. Dennis Kinlaw, Asbury's then-president. We met together several times, including after I left my position, and I consider him one of the great influences on my life. The experience also taught me a lot about work, language, and myself. It taught me that journalism would not be my career, but as a sociology professor, words have been my life.”

KIRBY WILCOXSON '79

— on serving as *Collegian's* editor from 1976-77

“Never in my lifetime have I felt more privileged than to oversee the student newspaper during the time of the Outpouring. There were so many details that God put into place that I didn't realize until much later. I was in my second year running the paper, but I don't think I realized the magnitude of what I was reporting that first day of the Outpouring. It had just clicked that evening, as I stood in Hughes, worshipping with friends and the Asbury community. I remember thinking, 'Someone needs to report this. Wait, that's my job!' It was the quickest I had ever written anything, and most of those articles were written in Hughes. I remember telling people it didn't even feel like I was writing any of it. I felt like God's transcriber. He was the Author and told me what He wanted recorded, and for some reason, He chose and trusted me to do it.”

LEXIE PRESTA '23

— on her time as executive editor during the February 2023 Outpouring and her opinion column series documenting the spiritual atmosphere.

Visit **TheAsburyCollegian.com** to explore recent articles and updates. To view archived issues of the *Collegian* going back to 1927, visit **asbury.libguides.com/archives**.

This spring, the Beloved Class of 2027 performed a timeless classic, "The Sound of Music." The Sophomore Musical was directed by student director **Jazmyn Lorentzen**, a sophomore Theatre major.

Asbury's Theatre department brought to life the cherished story "Little Women," based on the novel by

American author Louisa May Alcott. The production was student-directed by senior **Hannah Young '25 Clark**, who also directed the Sophomore Musical, "Mary Poppins," for the Ignited Class.

The Contemporary Art Seminar course at Asbury took an immersive trip to Chicago, where students encountered world-class art, vibrant



Pictured above are the team members in 1975 (below) and 1985 (above).

TUMBLING TEAM CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

Asbury University's Tumbling Team celebrated its 60th anniversary by hosting in April at its annual "Jym Jam" in the Luce Center gymnasium.

The Tumbling Team is a children's ministry outreach group that uses a combination of gymnastics, acrobatic stunts and cheer skills to fulfill its mission of witnessing Christ through service.

The team was officially established in 1965; however, its roots go back to the 1930s, making it one of Asbury's oldest traditions. Tumblers have toured throughout the United States, performing for schools, churches, community groups, prisons, and even at the Pentagon and an NBA basketball game.

Through its ministry and entertainment, the team remembers and honors its legacy.

cultural experiences, and a chance to grow both as artists and individuals." The Chicago trip was one of my favorite experiences as an art student," said **Meggen Absher '26**. "I loved getting to see pieces by some of my favorite artists and contemporary art with my



classmates. It sparked great conversations and allowed us to explore the city together, building a sense of community within the art department."

The contemporary art trip to Chicago not only educates Asbury students but also inspires them with the possibilities of what they can create.

RETREATS ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Asbury is deeply committed to the spiritual growth and discipleship of our students. Through Set Apart Retreats, students are invited to dedicate four days to intentional spiritual development, at no charge, during their first four semesters at Asbury.

On the retreat, new Asburians are introduced to a Biblical worldview that will help them navigate the headwinds of popular culture. They discover God's story and their place in it through exploration of scripture. They are equipped with practical, faith-building tools and disciplines for a life-long journey with Christ and the faculty, staff and peers attending with them will continue to provide accountability and encouragement long after they return to campus.

We're humbled and amazed by the ways God is moving through these retreats. Christian Life Project Director **Jeannie Banter '06** shared the following information from the December 2024 retreat:

- 96%** plan to implement a new spiritual discipline into their life regularly.
- 96%** have a greater understanding of living out a Biblical worldview.
- 93%** had a lie replaced with Truth.
- 93%** committed to bringing back to campus what was learned on retreat.
- 93%** learned a new tool or resource to grow in their faith.

One person made a first-time commitment to Christ, and 12 rededicated their lives to Him.



These statistics serve as a powerful reminder of the impact these retreats have—not just for the four days they take place—but for the lifetime of spiritual growth that follows.

The Set Apart retreat provides students an immersive, faith-centered atmosphere to connect with their peers and focus on God's voice and good works.

February was full of events for students, faculty, and the local community. Asbury Outreach Coalition (AOC) hosted a food pantry volunteer opportunity for Kentucky flood relief as well as a blood drive.



JOURNALISM PROGRAM UPGRADES STUDENT FACILITIES

Thanks to the generosity of a donor, the Media, Journalism & Digital Storytelling Department in the Miller Center for Communication Arts now features state-of-the-art technology that's enhancing student learning and professional development. The 15x9-foot video wall, built in the same style as the backdrops used in the hit television show "The Mandalorian," is located in the student newsroom.

"This wall will transform video content produced in the newsroom," shares Associate Journalism Professor Rich Manieri, pictured below. "We're fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology to act as a live and pre-recording TV studio."

This new technology enhances core journalism courses such as Video Journalism, Media Performance, and Broadcast News, where students are trained in both front-of-camera and behind-the-scenes skills. The departmental weekly Newswatch3 broadcast, campus and national event reporting, Team AU sports coverage, and livestreaming major productions like the popular Highbridge Film Festival allow students to develop professionally through practical experience.



The video wall is used to enhance student skills in Journalism's Media Performance and Broadcast News classes, among other uses.

ASBURY MEDIA PROFESSOR DIRECTS DOCUMENTARY ABOUT FAITH AND ART

In February, Asbury University's School of Communication Arts and Wilmore-based Creo Arts premiered "Quest for Beauty," a documentary directed by Assistant Professor of Media Communication **David Whitaker '10**. The film explores the life and legacy of 20th-century Catholic artist William Schickel, known for his work in painting, sculpture, stained glass, and architectural design.

Over six decades, Schickel created numerous commissioned works, including renovations at Kentucky's Abbey of Gethsemani, where he collaborated with monk and writer Thomas Merton. His art appears in private collections and esteemed institutions like the Vatican Museum. The documentary examines Schickel's pursuit of beauty, his challenges, and his vision for unity in the church.

Whitaker, commissioned by Creo Arts, led a team of Asbury alumni, students, and prospective students to create the film. Inspired by Schickel's tensions between faith and art, Whitaker felt a deep connection to the project. The team filmed at locations significant to Schickel's life, incorporating archival footage for historical depth. "Quest for Beauty" highlights the relevance of Schickel's work in today's fast-paced world, inspiring Christian artists to reflect on faith and creativity.

The next screening is May 22 at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. View upcoming screenings at [Creoarts.org](https://creoarts.org).



"Quest for Beauty" speaks directly to Christian artists today.

SHAW SCHOOL OF SCIENCES EARNS "GAME-CHANGER" GRANT TO HELP PRODUCE CLEAN HYDROGEN ENERGY

Asbury University is playing a pivotal role in a cutting-edge project to produce clean hydrogen energy. Partnering with Virginia Tech and Cincinnati-based Shepherd Chemical, the Shaw School of Sciences will receive \$320,000 to help develop innovative methods for breaking down methane into hydrogen. This three-year initiative seeks to create scalable, carbon-free hydrogen production, revolutionizing the clean energy landscape.

Hydrogen, often called the “gold standard” of energy, burns cleanly to produce water. The challenge lies in producing it efficiently and sustainably on an industrial scale. This project tackles that challenge through catalytic methane decomposition, a process that splits methane into valuable hydrogen without emitting greenhouse gases.

Dr. Wilson Shafer, associate professor of chemistry, will lead the University’s contributions to this transformative effort. “This grant is a game-changer for Asbury,” Shafer said. “We are addressing one of the world’s most urgent energy needs while positioning our university as a hub for impactful research. Hydrogen’s potential to reshape energy systems makes this work critical, and I’m thrilled to contribute.”

ASBURY STUDENTS INTEGRATE FAITH AND POLITICS THROUGH D.C. TRIP

In late January, as part of a three-credit course (PS 300: Washington Federal Seminar), seven Asbury students visited Washington, D.C., to hear policymakers and activists, see landmark buildings and monuments, and to reflect upon the interaction of politics and faith. **Dr. Steve Clements ’83**, dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, led the trip which included attending the three-day-long Christian Student Leadership Conference (CSLC), sponsored by the National Association of Evangelicals.

“Asbury students are challenged repeatedly, over an intense week, to consider the array of opportunities that are available to them for direct involvement in politics in our national capital and how they as followers of Christ can have an impact in government and service,” Clements said.



Asbury students in the Washington Federal Seminar class recently took a trip to Washington, D.C., where they explored the intersection of faith and politics.



The Master of Arts in Ministry Innovation ties student passions into their ministry goals.

ASBURY LAUNCHES A NEW MASTER’S PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

The School of Christian Studies is accepting students for the Fall 2025 semester in a new, primarily online Master of Arts in Ministry Innovation program.



Brian Shelton '89

“Amidst the overwhelming challenges for churches in an ever-changing world, Asbury seeks to meet those challenges with this new program,” explained Dean of the School of Christian Studies **Dr. Brian Shelton ’89**. “Coupling the time-honored liberal arts and effective ministry strategies with scripture, Ministry

Innovation aims to prepare pastors and innovators to offer fresh leadership with new approaches — both for ministry to the church and as an outreach from the church.”

The Master of Arts in Ministry Innovation is an innovative and global program for professionals in ministry and recent graduates looking to take their ministry to the next level and tie their passions into their ministry goals.

The curriculum is designed with experienced pastors, recent college graduates, worship leaders, artists, and current Asbury students in mind. Current Asbury students in the school of Christian Studies can take up to three master’s courses throughout their undergraduate education and can receive the graduate level degree in as little as one additional year. The program will equip students to pursue creative and culturally relevant ministry opportunities.

To learn more, visit asbury.edu/ministryinnovation.



ASBURY REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE IN THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

Asbury alumnus **Dr. Michael Powers '74**, Provost & Chief Academic Officer **Dr. Sherry Wilson '77 Powers**, and Professor of New Testament **Dr. Suzanne Nicholson** will serve in new positions in the Global Methodist Church. Dr. Michael Powers, Elder in the GMC, continues his service as the Conference Superintendent (previously President Pro-Tempore) of the Mid-South Annual Conference; Dr. Sherry Powers was elected to serve as a lay member of the Commission on Ministry and Higher Education; and Dr. Nicholson was elected to serve on the Commission on Discipleship, Doctrine, and Just Ministry, in addition to her position as Elder in the GMC.

ASBURY'S SHAW SCHOOL OF SCIENCES AND LOCAL PARTNERS PLANT 4,000 TREES ON CAMPUS

Asbury University hosted a tree-planting ceremony on campus March 27, 2025. The first-of-its-kind initiative was led by Dr. Bruce Branan, a professor of chemistry in Asbury's Shaw School of Sciences, in partnership with two Asbury alumni, **Dr. Kenton Sena '12** with the University of Kentucky (UK) Lewis Honors College, and **Dr. Ray Smith '83**. Sena and Smith both work as scientists at UK. The event is also supported by Green Forests Work (GFW) and the Laudato Si Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington.

Volunteers planted 4,000 trees of various species native to Kentucky, donated by GFW on Asbury property behind the baseball and shot-put facilities on land that was used to source dirt for the construction of the school's new Outdoor Venue.



The tree-planting ceremony will begin with a worship service with the planting immediately following.

ASBURY PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR PUBLISHES STATISTICS TEXTBOOK FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

In October 2024, **Dr. Paul Nesselroade '89**, professor of psychology at Asbury University, published the third edition of his textbook, now titled "Essentials of Behavioral and

Social Science Statistics." This streamlined, thoughtfully re-imagined version helps undergraduate students understand statistical principles while critically reflecting on the history and ethics of scientific research.

"The new edition focuses on the essentials — everything a student needs to grasp statistical applications in a single 16-week semester," Nesselroade said. "It's leaner but also richer in key ways."

This edition stands out with its emphasis on philosophical context. The first chapter opens with questions about the purpose and ethical dimensions of statistical analysis. By blending reflection and practical applications, the textbook offers undergraduates a distinctive learning experience.

ASBURY STUDENTS PRESENT HISTORY WITH READINGS AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

On Wednesday, March 12, History, Music, and Communication students hosted a new and unique theatrical show called "Letters Live!" This special event brought history to life through dramatic readings and musical performances, offering a vivid reminder of how deeply personal and engaging the past can be. Using letters that spanned nearly 4,000 years — from 3,800 BC to 1984 — the cast delivered word-for-word readings of real historical letters, infusing them with dramatic interpretation and an infectious enthusiasm that captivated the audience.

Historical letters are not usually the first-place people think to look for entertainment, but "Letters Live!" challenged that notion.

"It is so common for people to view history as dry and boring," said Dr. Alex Mayfield, assistant professor of history, "but letters from the past show us why nothing can be farther from the truth. Letters connect us to the human drama of history. They are superfluous and social, full of sweet nothings, inside jokes, petty complaints, and a whole lot of juicy gossip. Sometimes, they're just objectively funny!"

The show delivered on its advertised promise to "Laugh and Hear History," as students breathed new life into historical figures who might otherwise be confined to textbooks. The audience met a particularly cranky Mesopotamian teenager, a flirtatious Alexander Hamilton, and the delightfully gossipy novelist Flannery O'Connor.

Led by history majors **Nichole Sherry '25** and **Meghan Cabe '25**, the cast included students from across the school. The evening also featured a potent and emotional musical interlude that underscored epistolary themes of the night. **Faith Alford '25** delivered a moving solo performance of "Burn" from the hit musical *Hamilton*. The song, which recounts Eliza Hamilton's heartbreak upon discovering her husband's infidelity, offered a potent and emotional reflection on the way historical people continue to shape our understanding of them.



Historical letters are not usually the first-place people think to look for entertainment, but "Letters Live!" hosted by History, Music and Communication students challenged that notion.

One attendee, **Ethan Bonow '28**, enthusiastically summed up his experience: "Letters Live was a tremendous hit! I would go to something like that every week."

Ultimately, the event was not just about entertainment—it was an exercise in historical empathy. The letters offered a unique glimpse into the lives of those who came before us, revealing their joys, frustrations, and personalities in an intimate way that history books often cannot. They showed us that history is not just about wars and politics but about people's everyday experiences, their loves, their losses, and their voices.

Sponsored by the the Social Science and History Department, the Music Department, and the School of Communication Arts, "Letters Live!" encapsulated the best of Christian Liberal Arts tradition, and it demonstrated the ways Asbury students remain engaged in creative and cross-disciplinary approaches to the study of history.

"History came alive for the audience," said Mayfield, "and I could not be prouder of how our students made that possible."

Schedule of Events

MAY 2
Baccalaureate

MAY 3
Commencement

JUNE 2 – 13
ImpactU Academic
Summer Camps

JUNE 6
Eagle Day

JUNE 20-22
Reunion

JUNE 20
Hadassah Women's
Gathering

JUNE 21
Outdoor Venue
Dedication

JUNE 23-27
SummitCamp

JUNE 27
Eagle Day

JULY 11
Eagle Day

JUNE 9-18
Youth Becoming
Leaders

QUICK HITS

Academic News

Two Asbury University Music Education alumni received recognition at the Kentucky Music Educators Association District 7 meeting. **Dylan Schatko '13** received the District General Music Chair and District 7 Elementary Music Teacher of the Year, and **Olivia Kramer '22** received District Orchestra Chair.

Asbury alumna **Jennifer Puckett '01 Montgomery** recently received the 2025 Kentucky Teacher of the Year award from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). Currently an English teacher at Eminence Independent Middle School, this year marked Montgomery's 23rd year of teaching.

MFA alumni **Matthew Webb '21** (Film & TV Production) and **Chris Easterly '22** (Screenwriting) continue to thrive in film and TV with a new movie and book. Webb recently received the River Bend Film Festival: Best Feature Length Screenplay award for his film, "A Carpenter's Prayer," which released this summer to 67 theaters in 21 states. Easterly recently announced a new book, available for pre-order, titled, "Writing, Making, and Distributing Your Short Film: How the Short Film Can Advance Your Craft and Career."

Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Dr. Laura Walther '91** and Biochemistry major **Luke Chitwood '26** collaborated on research presented at the Biennial Conference on Chemistry Education (BCCE) at the University of Kentucky. Presented by Chitwood, "Distinguishing Cinnamon Species: A Hands-On HPLC Analysis" focused on developing an educational procedure to perform an extraction and analysis of any cinnamon product using High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC).



Asbury Celebrates Two-Year Anniversary of the Outpouring



The Asbury community gathered in Hughes Auditorium on Feb. 7, 2025, to commemorate the spontaneous work of God that happened two years ago during the Outpouring. The celebration featured worship testimonies from students and staff who witnessed the remarkable move of God. The Chapel service, which was open to the public and livestreamed, focused on the impact of the Outpouring's "tremors," including witnesses from students who shared and experienced this around the world, as well as in our own backyard.

Christian Life Project Director **Jeannie Banter '06** expresses the importance of remembering this event.

"I recently was introduced to the quote from poet Mary Oliver saying, 'Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.' This describes the heart of the celebration of the Asbury Outpouring in Chapel," she said. "While we want to remember the work of God in our community during the Outpouring of 2023, the work of God is so much bigger than those 16 days. We want to draw attention to and celebrate how the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit continues both in our backyard and around the world."

You can listen to or watch the service at asbury.edu/podcasts.

AVA MILLER '26 SHARES REFLECTIONS ON THE OUTPOURING NEARLY TWO YEARS LATER

It has been two years since the Outpouring. How has it changed your faith?

The Outpouring came at a time in my faith when I was asking Jesus questions about trust and complete surrender.

I was willing, yet my heart was resistant in ways I couldn't name. It was in the quiet moments with Jesus that my soul surrendered—not out of compliance or obligation but from seeing the Lord as holy, almighty, and the gentlest King. The Outpouring revealed God's character in ways I will forever hold on to.



Ava Miller '26 shares her Outpouring reflections.

What were those first moments in Hughes like?

I remember walking in and just stopping, standing right on the edge. I was halted in my tracks, in awe of the goodness and genuineness in the room. At that moment, students were standing to share Scripture, and together the body replied, "This is the word of God, and we believe it." I also remember the testimonies in those early days when it was just Asbury students. They were honest and vulnerable in front of the whole congregation. It was a raw room where all our junk was given to Jesus, and we were being renewed by The One Who is Holy.

Looking back on the Outpouring, was there a specific moment that stands out as particularly meaningful or transformative?

There are many clear moments in my memory, but the most transformational ones were when I was hidden by Hughes' windows, on my knees, listening to Jesus—not singing, standing, or witnessing one of the many miraculous moments. It was on my knees that I began to host more of God's heart in my own. In those days, He broke my heart over and over. I can't say it was a pleasant

feeling, but that's what pruning with Jesus can be like. He stripped me of myself so that he could put a new self in me that is continuously being renewed. Time and time again, over the 16 days, my heart broke for what breaks His. There, near the stained-glass windows to the left of the stage, I realized He is more holy than I will ever have words to describe. He is, without a doubt, worthy of every "yes."

Were there any challenges in processing or responding to the Outpouring? If so, how did you navigate them?

I have incredible mentors in my life who walked alongside me and experienced the Outpouring, as well. Personally, it wasn't the grandeur of the Outpouring that was challenging to process but that the floodgates of my spiritual walk felt like they swung open. The Lord's voice was so clear, and the Holy Spirit so near and vivid, that it was like learning what deeper communion with Jesus is like. I had to walk in awareness and joyful obedience in the everyday. I learned to live out God's desire for intimacy with Him daily in a fresh way, processing a new rhythm of life that felt more vivid than ever before.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Rebecca Hedman '23, Ellie Paquette '23, and Scott Stephenson '23 traveled to Cleona Camp Meeting in Pennsylvania to share their testimonies with hundreds of attendees. Camp director David Ludwig noted, "The Holy Spirit moved in a way we haven't experienced in a long time. People in their 30s and 40s said they couldn't remember anything like it. During the invitation after the evening message, the area in front of the platform was filled with people on their knees, praying and seeking God. It felt like an extension of the Asbury Outpouring you shared with us."

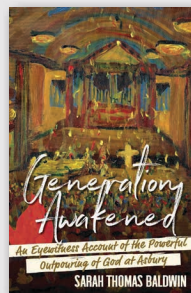
Asbury faculty member Rob Lim and students, **Wes Elliott '26** and **Susanna Edwards '26**, traveled to Australia to testify about the Outpouring at the 24/7 Prayer Conference. "I'm so grateful for my time in Australia," said Elliott. "The impact in each city we visited was tangible as people gathered, worshiped, prayed, and sought the Lord with renewed passion. It also catalyzed my calling as a minister, worship leader, and shepherd. I'm thankful for what the Lord is doing in Australia and around the world through the flame of encouragement from the Asbury Outpouring."

Other places Asburians recently shared about the Outpouring:

- United Methodist Church in Maysville, Ky.
- Wake Up My Soul Youth Conference, London & Ontario
- Erlanger Methodist Church, Northern Kentucky

BOOKS WRITTEN ABOUT THE OUTPOURING

Check out the most recent literature from the Asbury community detailing the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit during the Feb. 2023 Outpouring:



*Generation Awakened:
An Eyewitness Account of
the Powerful Outpouring
of God at Asbury*

By **Rev. Dr. Sarah Thomas '93 Baldwin**

*Cooperating With the
Holy Spirit: Theological
and Practical Reflections
on the Asbury Outpouring*

Edited By Dr. Suzanne Nicholson



*Lower Igniting Spiritual
Awakening Through
Radical Humility*

By Zach Meerkreebs

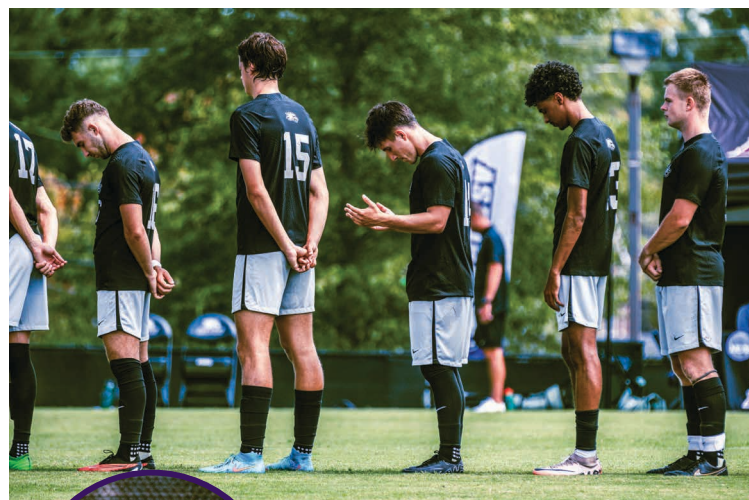
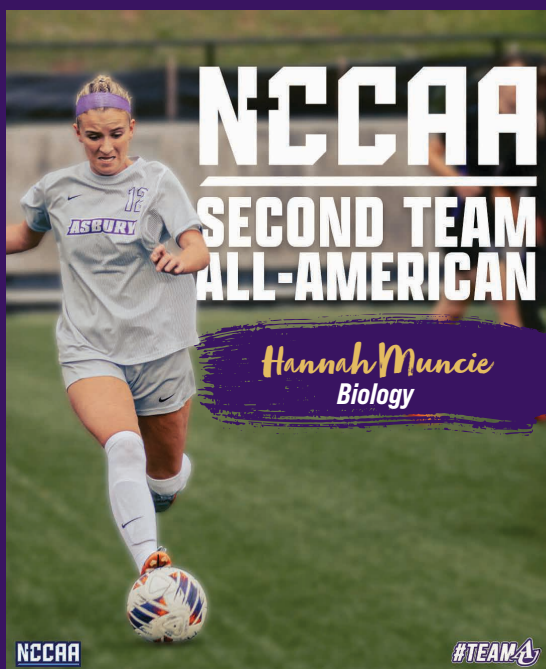
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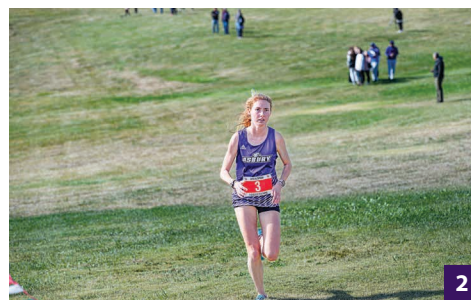
STUDENT-ATHLETE PROFILE

Dalton Fleshood

Asbury men's soccer midfielder **Dalton Fleshood '25** embodies the vision of Asbury athletics, using the platform of college sports to serve, train and compete for the glory of God. The Business Administration major from Orlando, Fla., was recently named a 2024 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) All-American after scoring three goals and recording four assists as a captain in Asbury's second consecutive 10-win season.

The *Ambassador* editorial team spoke with Fleshood, who has excelled as a Christ-like leader at Asbury in his second year after transferring.

- Q Who are some of the coaches, faculty, and staff that have impacted you at AU?**
- A** Having attended another college previously, I can truly appreciate and feel the difference the remarkable Asbury staff has made in my life. In fact, I could easily write a paragraph about every faculty member I've spent more than two hours with. A few names that immediately come to mind include **Ben Andrews '06**, **John Greer '10**, **Noah Welch '20**, **Mark Whitworth '84**, Zach Meerkreebs, Dr. George Allen, **Liz Loudon '18**, Matt Penny, Rob Lim, and Dan Lewis.
- Q How have you grown spiritually during your time at Asbury?**
- A** My spiritual growth at Asbury has been nothing short of transformative. When I decided to transfer here, I had many unanswered questions and a very immature faith. I had never truly walked faithfully with Jesus, and I was prideful, believing my own plans were better. At Asbury, I've been disciplined and mentored by incredible people who have helped me grow. I can now confidently say that I've learned what it means to walk faithfully with Jesus — in friendship and dependence on Him. I will always look back on my time at Asbury as the period when everything changed. It was here that my life was transformed and my soul was restored to God.
- Q What life lessons have you learned from managing the demands of being a student-athlete?**
- A** Throughout my time as a student-athlete, I've learned the invaluable importance of being organized, disciplined, and relying on the Lord for strength. The demanding schedule of a student-athlete requires strong time management skills.



ATHLETICS ENJOYS STRONG FALL SEMESTER

During their first semester as an active member of the NCAA Division III competing in the Collegiate Conference of the South (CCS), Asbury Athletics received several team and individual awards. The Eagles earned the CCS Women's Cross-Country Championship, the CCS Women's Volleyball Regular Season Championship, three CCS Player of the Year Awards, 18 All-Conference Student-Athletes (CCS), and three CCS Coach of the Year Awards (Randy Crist – Cross Country, Tiffany Horton – Volleyball, **Zach Welch '13** – Women's Soccer).

TeamAU also received recognition for commitment in the classroom with 31 NCAA Scholar-Athletes (junior, senior, or graduate student with 3.40 cumulative GPA or higher), and two NCAA Scholar-Team Awards (teams meeting a combined GPA of 3.40). **1 2**

TEMAU EARNS 3.42 OVERALL SEMESTER GPA

Asbury Athletics celebrated a 3.42 overall department GPA for the 2024 fall semester. The Eagles also recognized 135 Asbury scholar-athletes, representing a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above after the semester. An impressive 185 AU student-athletes posted a semester GPA of 3.25 or above, earning a spot on the TeamAU Honor Roll.



DALTON FLESHOOD, HANNAH MUNCIE, AND ISABELLE VANDESCHRAAF NAMED NCAA ALL-AMERICANS

The NCAA named Asbury men's soccer senior **Dalton Fleshood**, women's soccer junior **Hannah Muncie**, and volleyball freshman **Isabelle VandeSchraaf** as 2024 All-Americans.

ASBURY BASEBALL RECAPS IMPACTFUL TRIP TO PUERTO RICO

After the 2024 fall semester concluded, a group of 39 from the Asbury baseball program traveled to Puerto Rico to serve alongside the LYNC8 Project, a ministry organization led by Asbury women's basketball head coach Chad Mayes and his wife, Chandy.

"Our team enjoyed lifetime memories together highlighted by five of our team members making decisions to be baptized and commit their life to Christ," said Asbury baseball head coach, Manny Cervantes. "This was a great team-building trip through daily spiritual discussions, worship and challenges led by our baseball chaplain, Dr. Dan Lewis." **3**

HOW TO FOLLOW ASBURY ATHLETICS

The TeamAU vision is to **serve, train, and compete** for the glory of God

Follow #TeamAU @asburyeagles on Instagram, X and Facebook, or at asburyeagles.com

Watch TeamAU home games live on asburysportsdigitalnetwork.com

Shop Asbury gear via the "Shop" button at asburyeagles.com



Following the Wellness Example of E. Stanley Jones

As we release this issue of the *Ambassador*, I'm reminded of our history comprising 135 years of preparing students who have made significant impact on the world.

Someone recently gifted Asbury the pocket bible of E. Stanley Jones, our alum from 1907, who was greatly renowned. As the only Asbury alum I know nominated twice for Nobel Peace Prizes, we can learn some things from his life and ministry.

He was a man of balance and wellness in life. Jones was not afraid of new and innovative challenges like helping the United States and Japanese governments try to work out differences (a story for another time).

In his approach to life and ministry, Jones constantly worked towards holistic health and being a well-rounded person so he could successfully serve in the areas God called him to serve. In one of Jones' books, he even outlines his exercise routine using whatever chair is in the room. My social media keeps telling me I need to do an in-office chair workout...maybe he was ahead of his time.

His practice in spiritual disciplines shaped him to have an uncanny calmness in difficulty and to have the boldness to interact as a friend of world leaders. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mahatma Ghandi and others called him friend. His boldness and balance served him well as a reconciler and even inspired Martin Luther King, Jr.'s non-violent approach to civil change.

Asbury is kept healthy and well through the blessings of God on our campus and through the prayers, modeling, and support of our alums and friends. We shouldn't fear innovation and the exploration of new things, but always with the guidance and direction of good advisors and God's blessings so that we are balanced in our institutional health. Thanks to so many of you who have invested your wisdom, resources and prayers.

Among other innovations, we are so excited about the rolling out of our own Nursing Program. What a missional fit for us! We have a heavy lift with fundraising to renovate space in Hamann-Ray but we have great Nursing Program leadership in place and a growing momentum of excitement and support. What an opportunity we have in training students to help people not only in their physical health, but also in spiritual and emotional health as they face life's challenges.

Thanks to you and to E. Stanley Jones for giving us models who encourage us to make wise choices, to keep at it when things are tough, and to be creative and balanced in our mission!



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

**All alumni and their families are welcome
to join us on June 20-22 for**

Reunion 2025

We will celebrate and recognize our banner year alumni from classes ending in 0s and 5s this year. Congratulations to the 50th reunion class, the Panthers! Our special music group reunions will be with the The Salvation Army's Songsters and Brass Band. Their concert takes place on Sunday morning, June 22. We will dedicate the Gray Outdoor Venue, and honor the memory of **Dr. Rita Pritchett '69**, for whom the stadium is named.

Visit asbury.edu/reunion to register today.



1970s

Michael Peterson '72 and **Ben Brammell '98** contributed to writing the book, "Jesus and the Genome: The Intersection of Christology and Biology" which explores a worldview that embraces both Christology and Evolutionary Biology coherently. **3**

Warren Lathem '74 president of the Venezuela Now ministry, celebrates milestone ministry accomplishments. About 30,000 pounds of medicine, infant formula and nutritional supplements were sent last year to be used in the five Medical Centers and the Mobile Clinic in Venezuela. Every dollar given produced \$5 of ministry. Visit venezuelanow.org.



1980s

Jaime Greene '82 was awarded the Florida Department of Health Larry S. Jordan EMS Hall of Fame award which recognizes his dedication and advocacy for prehospital emergency care.

Cesar Aroldo Solorzano '84 celebrated 30 years as a Spanish Professor at Azusa Pacific University, where he continues to bless the community and exhibits a life transformed by the Lord's calling on his life. **2**

Ruthanna Kellner '86 Corbitt completed a Master of Interdisciplinary Studies from Liberty University.

1990s

April Lewandowski '95 is the inaugural Director of the Teaching Excellence Center at Front Range, the largest community college in Colorado, where she leads a team designing professional development. **4**

Cliff Mitchem '96 recently moved from Wilmore to Moundville, Ala., where he is now the new senior pastor at the Church of the Vine.

Andrea Toledo '97 Baker recently published, "Sacred



Spaces: Restoring Safety and Trust in Faith Communities" where she shares the unique position faith leaders hold to support survivors and the importance of the effort to steward that privilege well.

Elena Vale Ford '98 Wahl is teaching music for Cincinnati Public Schools and serves as District Performance Coordinator while writing articles for Medium.

2000s

Bethany Mikles '01 adopted Noah into her family where he joins his older sister Christina who was adopted in 2021. The Mikles family was recognized at a Savannah Bananas game for their contributions in foster care. **6**

Andy Miller III '02 was inaugurated as the ninth president of Wesley Biblical Seminary.

Shawn Okpebholo '03 recently earned the title of 2024 Chicagoan of the Year in Classical Music from the Chicago Tribune which highlights his contributions to contemporary



classical music and his impact in addressing social issues with the music he composes.

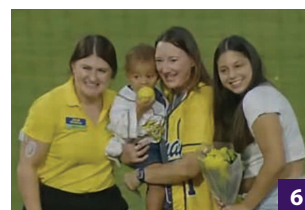
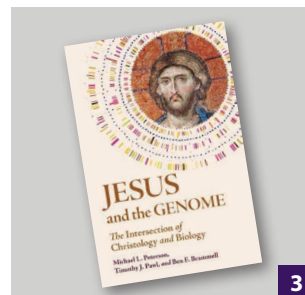
2010s

Wes '10 and Taylor Bobb '12 Collingsworth are happy to announce the arrival of Robert "Bobby" Hall Collingsworth, born on Dec. 13, 2024. **1**

Anna Giaritelli '11 received an award for the Dao Prize's excellence in investigative journalism that was presented by the National Journalism Center.

Kenton Sena '12 was awarded more than \$1 million for a four-year project by the National Science Foundation's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research where collaborative research will help explain flash flooding in hopes of developing early warning systems.

Catherine Haws '19 published a children's book about healthy money habits, called "Hooray for Carnival Day!: Give, Save, Spend the Westwood Way." This book is available on Amazon.



Tom Fuerst '10 published an African American Studies book called Prophetic Peril: The Rhetoric of Nineteenth-Century African American Prophetic-Call Narratives available at upress.state.ms.us/books/p/prophetic-peril.

2020s

Bradley Finke '21 married **Katharine Doty '21** on Dec. 2, 2023. Bradley is a physical therapist with Kentucky Orthopedic Rehab Team (KORT), and Katharine is an auditor with the Kentucky Department of Parks.

Addison Smith '24 is a multimedia journalist at WSAZ News in West Virginia, after joining the news team in the summer of 2024. While at Asbury, she majored in journalism and worked for the school's television station, Newswatch 3. **5**

Zachary and **Sarah Driscoll '24 Keeling** announced their marriage on Jan. 17, 2025. Sarah is now living in Louisville, Ky., and working with Eastpoint Audiology in marketing.



IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

Mildred "Sunshine" Sites '47 Key,
Education/Ministry,
10/14/2024, Dublin, GA

Dorothea Ward '47 Smith,
Business Owner/Cosmetology,
6/2/2022, Boca Raton, FL

Rev. Carl Yoshimine '47, Ministry,
8/7/2024, Yorba Linda, CA

Mary Townsend '49 Haynes,
Education/Office Manager,
11/3/2024, Lexington, KY

Dr. James Kenley '49,
Education/Medicine,
11/28/2024, Mechanicsville, VA

Rev. Theron "Ted" Smith '50,
Education/Ministry/Missions,
12/12/2024, Hilliard, OH

Dr. James "Jim" Foulkes '51,
Medical Missionary/
Ophthalmology/Veteran,
1/31/2025, Boone, NC

Margaret "Betty" Gerner '51
Jordan, Education/Volunteer,
10/27/2024, Kennebunk, ME

David Long Sr. '51,
Education/Education Administrator/
Farmer/Missions,
11/6/2024, Kokomo, IN

George Pope '51,
Education/Veteran,
10/18/2024, Crossville, TN

Mary "Joanne" Veydt '52 Sutlive,
Education/Missions,
10/5/2024, Wilmore, KY

Mary Davis '52 Veters,
Education/Ministry/Missions,
10/6/2024, Wilmore, KY

Frances "Jean" Fitzgerald '52
Wogan, Homemaker,
11/18/2024, Lady Lake, FL

Shirley Ford '53 Lundgren,
Medical Technologist,
12/22/2024, Horseheads, NY

Doris "Helen" Rodgers '53 Vos,
Homemaker/Volunteer,
1/16/2025, Oskaloosa, IA

Beverly Mann '54 Serrott,
Education,
9/20/2024, Columbus, OH

Norma Booth '54 Taylor,
Homemaker/Volunteer,
8/30/2023, Sun City Center, FL

Luther Cain '55,
Firefighter/Ministry/Publishing,
12/5/2024, Versailles, KY

Dr. Burrell Dinkins '55,
Education/Ministry/
Missions/Writer,
1/7/2025, Wilmore, KY

Carolyn Reeder '55 Kingsbury,
Education/Former Asbury
Trustee Spouse/Missions,
10/21/2024, Saint Paul, MN

Mary Giles '55 Phillips,
Education/Volunteer,
1/1/2025, Mauricetown, NJ

Hugh "Byron" Sims Jr. '55,
Athletic Coach/Business Owner/
Pharmacist, 11/28/2024, Wilmore, KY

Dr. Jerry Wortham '55,
Ministry, 12/9/2024, Lebanon, OH

Dr. Paul Rader '56,
Former Asbury University
President/Former Asbury Trustee/
Salvation Army General,
1/18/2025, Lexington, KY

Beverly Rou '57 Hintz,
Education/Homemaker,
9/11/2024, Simpsonville, KY

George Rinehart '57,
Education/Ministry,
12/12/2024, Rootstown, OH

Wanda Kemper '57 Weeks,
Education/Missions/
Music Ministry,
1/24/2025, Bedford, KY

Roy Wilkinson '57,
Contractor/Education/Sales,
11/15/2024, Alpharetta, GA

Marietta Kelley '58 Garber,
Christian Education,
10/6/2024, Cincinnati, OH

Mary Jane Wood '59 Fester,
Music Education/Music Ministry,
1/11/2025, Godfrey, IL

Mary "Linda" Pifer '59 Hogrefe,
Administration Assistant/Banker/
Education/Volunteer,
1/14/2025, Beavercreek, OH

Jay Junior "J.C." Raney '59,
Education/Veteran,
1/21/2025, Plainfield, IN

Rev. John "Elliott" Stabler '59,
Education/Ministry,
12/20/2024, Townville, PA

Rev. Frederick Cooley '60,
Military Chaplain/Ministry,
12/11/2024, Chelsea, MI

Ruth Davis '60 Cundiff,
Education, 1/10/2025, Jackson, KY

Stanley Hannah '60,
Business Owner/
Structural Design Engineer/
Volunteer,
12/30/2024, New Vienna, OH

Margaret "Alberta" Hoagland '60
Harp, Education,
4/6/2024, Louisville, KY

Loetta Remmich '60 Sellner,
Business Owner/Education/
Volunteer,
10/26/2024, Bismarck, ND

Lemuel Shiu '60,
Business Owner,
11/29/2024, Waldwick, NJ

Helen Robinson '61 Ahlemeyer,
Education/Missions,
1/28/2025, Columbus, IN

Rev. Neal Long '61,
Ministry/Missions,
1/6/2022, Bradenton, FL

Valene Loftis '61 Long,
Education/Ministry/Missions,
10/24/2024, Bradenton, FL

Rev. Richard Gantz '62,
Ministry/Missions,
10/6/2024, Mount Dora, FL

David Skrudland '62,
Ministry, 10/10/2024, The Villages, FL

David Smith '62,
Management/Missions/
Sales/Veteran,
8/20/2024, Mount Juliet, TN

Alice Freeman '62 Withey,
Education/Homemaker,
12/30/2024, Geneseo, NY

Jane Williams '63 Beall,
Homemaker/Ministry,
2/1/2025, McPherson, KS

Dr. Robert Church '64,
Pharmacist, 7/28/2024, Wayland, MI

Karen Ruegg '64 Montgomery,
Education/Volunteer,
11/24/2024, Bellefontaine, OH

Daniel Davis '65,
Education Administrator/Ministry,
10/27/2024, Mansfield, OH

Lawrence "Larry" Larabee '65,
Business Owner/Farmer/Ministry,
12/19/2024, Elizabeth City, NC

Jacqueline Rhoads '65 Profit,
Retail, 11/20/2024, Van Wert, OH

Dr. Terry McCollum '66,
Education/Education Administrator/
Research, 1/31/2025, Loveland, OH

Howard "Rand" McEndre Jr. '66,
Education/Retail/Transportation,
12/2/2024, Lexington, KY

Rev. Fred Gardner '68,
Ministry, 12/31/2024, Clearwater, FL

Lynda Via '68 Geiger,
Administrative Assistant,
1/13/2025, Marion, OH

Sharon Dilworth '69 Farmer,
Food Service,
11/5/2024, Ridgeville, IN

Richard "Wayne" Tarpley '69,
Education/Military,
10/10/2024, Perry, GA

Lawrence Yohe '70,
Law Enforcement/Veteran,
12/30/2022, Washington, PA

Linda Carruth '71 Davis,
Author/Hospice Chaplain/
Speaker/Vocalist,
1/27/2025, Homerville, GA

Martin Findley '72,
Manufacturing,
10/5/2024, Seymour, IN

Rev. Rudolph "Rudy"
Heintzelman '73, Ministry/
Missions/Veteran,
10/12/2024, Dothan, AL

Elizabeth "Liz" Bartley '73
Huebner, Missions/
Quality Control Inspector,
10/31/2024, Westminster, CO

Robert McGinnis '74,
Retail, 1/24/2025, Lexington, KY

Geraldine "Geri" Miller '75 Bloom,
Business Owner/Ministry/Missions,
11/26/2024, Coldwater, MI

Rev. Mickey Kimball '75,
Ministry, 6/24/2024, Dayton, OH

Rev. Dr. Mark "Danny" Philpot '75,
Ministry, 10/31/2024, Alpharetta, GA

Dean Willman '75, Medical
Assistant, 10/21/2024,
Saratoga Springs, NY

Dr. Timothy Graham '76,
Chaplain/Counselor/Veteran,
10/31/2024, Glade Spring, VA

Dennis Johnson '76,
Education/Manufacturing,
2/2/2025, Lima, OH

Pamela McNeil '77 Little,
Homemaker,
11/8/2024, Morgantown, WV

Joseph "Joe" Wright '79,
Attorney/Mechanic/Ministry/
Veteran, 10/4/2024, Georgetown, KY

Catherine "Cathy" Kern '82
Parsons, Systems Analyst,
1/30/2025, Uncasville, CT

Richard Ashby '83,
Business Owner/Finance,
7/18/2024, Milton, DE

Cynthia Cole '83 Duncel,
Homemaker/Ministry,
9/27/2024, Flushing, MI

Hulen "Gene" Robinette '85,
Missions/Retail,
11/17/2024, Stopover, KY

John Gaylor '92,
Education, 2/11/2022, Nokomis, FL

Kayleen Muchler '15 Rankin,
Education, 1/29/2025, Stony Point, NC

Logan Edwards '22,
Digital Editor/Media, 10/20/2024,
Mills River, NC

Friends

Aaron Bailey,
10/13/2024, Wilmore, KY

Florence Baston,
8/14/2024, Lakewood, NJ

Betty Jacoby Bechtol,
8/30/2024, Cincinnati, OH

Carl "C.D." Buchanan Jr.,
4/14/2024, Sorrento, FL

Charles "Charlie" Calhoun,
10/16/2024, Millers, MD

Patrick Camm,
8/24/2024, Brentwood, TN

Dale Coleman,
11/12/2024, Atlanta, GA

Gary Collier,
2/4/2025, Franklin, TN

Rev. Dan Craig,
12/24/2024, Fort Sumner, NM

Douglas Elmiger,
9/19/2023, Collins, OH

Dr. Richard Farmer,
9/22/2024, DeSoto, TX

Karen Pitts Fitchett,
1/31/2025, Kennett Square, PA

Lucille "Lucy" Flynn,
2/9/2024, Pratt, KS

William "Bill" Gaylor Jr.,
1/22/2025, Nokomis, FL

Susan Forkner Gill,
Former Asbury Faculty, 1/29/2025,
Pequot Lakes, MN

Dr. Charles "Chuck" Gobin,
Asbury Faculty, 11/20/2024,
Wilmore, KY

Sandra "Sandy" Gorton,
6/27/2024, Largo, FL

Donna Antcliff Granger,
12/18/2024, Lansing, MI

Dr. Charles Houston Jr.,
10/19/2024, Statesboro, GA

Marilyn Southgate Latimer,
Former Asbury Staff, 9/27/2024,
Unionville, MI

Rev. Keith Lee,
11/14/2024, Springfield, MO

Elsie Bogle McClrath-Carpenter,
Former Asbury Staff, 12/3/2024,
Groveport, OH

Sophia Pierson Miller,
6/6/2024, Three Rivers, MI

Timothy "Tim" Mullins,
10/1/2024, Lakeland, FL

Brian Noel,
10/4/2024, Lexington, KY

Joseph O'Brien Jr.,
10/6/2024, Magnolia, TX

Joshua Reidinger,
12/1/2024, Vestavia, AL

Martha Hegler Robb,
12/1/2024, Spring, TX

Martha Salazar,
10/15/2024, Montgomery, TX

Mary Simmerman,
7/3/2024, Lexington, KY

Billie Jean Swallow Sisson,
6/9/2024, Owosso, MI

Ruth Wan Man-Yuk Shiu,
12/19/2022, Waldwick, NJ

Mary Louise Yancy Smith,
5/16/2024, Jackson, TN

Larry Spillman Jr.,
11/8/2024, Lexington, KY

Mayme "Elaine" Fletcher Swanson,
10/20/2024, Omaha, NE

Heather McPherson Todd,
12/16/2024, Shawnee, OK

Paul Wickey,
12/23/2024, Mechanicsburg, PA



Asbury University honors the Life of Former President Dr. Paul A. Rader '56

Asbury joined the global community in honoring the life and service of **Dr. Paul A. Rader '56**, former president and retired Salvation Army General, who was promoted to Glory on Jan. 18, 2025.

A 1956 Asbury graduate, Rader served as the University's 15th president from 2000 to 2006, following decades of international leadership in The Salvation Army alongside his wife, **Dr. Kay Fuller '57 Rader**.

"Asbury has been shaped by thousands of godly thumbprints," said President Dr. Kevin Brown. "Dr. Rader advanced Asbury's mission with faithful leadership and godly character."

During his presidency, Rader prioritized diversity, oversaw campus improvements, and expanded academic programs, including graduate studies and Asbury Online. His tenure also saw the establishment of the Highbridge Film Festival and recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Rader's impact extended worldwide. In 1994, he became the first American-born General of The Salvation Army, serving until 1999. Fluent in Korean, he and Kay spent over 20 years in Korea, spreading the Gospel.

In 2023, Asbury dedicated the Rader Student Center in honor of the couple's legacy. "His commitment to academic excellence, spiritual vitality, and leadership set a high mark for us all," said Board Chair **Larry Brown '80**.

Rader is survived by his wife, three children, and a legacy of faith-filled service. His many accolades pale in comparison to his lifelong devotion to Christ and the Great Commission.

To read the full article, visit asbury.edu/news.

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.



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ImpactU: Equine
ImpactU: Film I
ImpactU: Poetry

Week 1: June 9-13, 2025

ImpactU: Environmental Science & Biotechnology
ImpactU: Equine
ImpactU: Film II
ImpactU: Forensic Science
ImpactU: Screenwriting

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