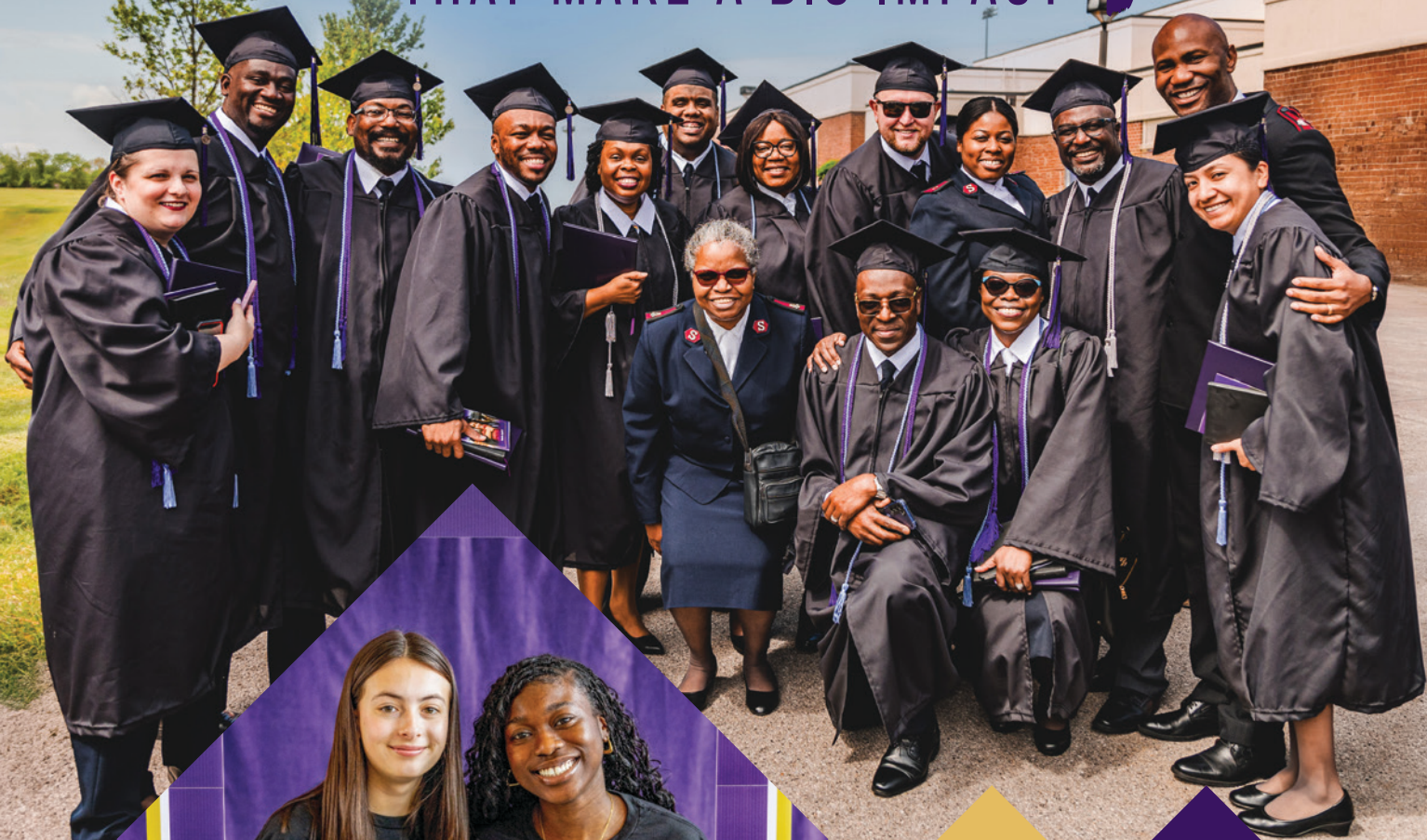


AMBASSADOR

ASBURY UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2026

Partnerships THAT MAKE A BIG IMPACT



AsburyGives
Celebrates
Generosity

Innovation
in Education
with A.J. Stich '06







1



4



5



6



8



9



10



7

1 Asbury University's cheer program made history in March when it competed in its first-ever cheerleading competition in Fayetteville, N.C. Under the leadership of head coach Katie Wall '21, Asbury Cheer has taken a significant step forward by transitioning into competitive cheerleading, marking a new chapter for a program that has historically supported athletics exclusively from the sidelines. **2** The Salvation Army Camp Fair in February highlighted unique summer work opportunities for students. **3** Students enjoyed a party during the big game in February in the Rader Student Center. **4** The Police Service Mounts Program continues to gain national notoriety for its outstanding training of police horses. The horses are in high demand and can be found nationwide and in Canada. **5** The Gospel Choir led worship during the International Student Stories Chapel in March. **6** Club Trustees featured indoor mini golf and many other games for students. **7** Lindsey Melhorn '26 performed with the Asbury Orchestra. **8** Geneva Wise '26, Belle Forrest '26, and Rissa Yan '26, along with Director of Library Services Beth Groves, created a display in the Kinlaw Library. **9** The long-standing Sophomore Musical (SoMu) tradition brought Camp Rock to the stage by Asbury's Renewed Class. The production was directed by Isabella Showalter '28. **10** Students attended a "Stations of the Cross" display before Easter.



Table of Contents

ASBURY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE
VOL. 54 ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2026

PRESIDENT

Dr. Kevin J. Brown

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT & MARKETING

Jennifer McChord

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Dr. Mark Troyer

VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS & UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Mark Whitworth '84

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

Larry Jarrard '93

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ANNUAL GIVING

Lisa Falin '90 Harper

ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Bert Jones '89

DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Colton Back '20, MBA '22

EDITORS: LISA FALIN '90 HARPER, ABBY LAUB

DESIGNER: CONSOLIDATED GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS

CONTRIBUTORS: STEPH NELSON, CAROLINE PRESTON '24, JEREMY SIMMONS '18, MBA '25, MAGGIE COMBS '28, MATTHEW JOHNSON '23, MBA '25, SARAH GOUL '24, TAYLOR BOBB '12 COLLINGSWORTH, KIM SPILLMAN

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.

One Macklem Drive, Wilmore, KY 40390-1198
(800) 888-1818

In This Issue

- 03 **President's Message**
DR. KEVIN J. BROWN
- 04 **Partnerships in Education**
- 10 **Innovation in Education: A.J. Stich '06**
- 12 **Faculty and Academic News**
- 14 **TeamAU**
- 16 **Campus Corner**
- 18 **Donor Feature**
- 20 **Noteworthy Alumni**
- 22 **Partnerships and Shared Values**
DR. MARK TROYER
- 23 **Class Notes**
- 24 **In Memoriam**

Schedule OF EVENTS

MAY 1

Baccalaureate

MAY 2

Commencement

MAY 7

President's Dinner in Denver

MAY 8

President's Dinner in Colorado Springs

MAY 12

President's Dinner in Louisville

JUNE 5

Eagle Days New Student Orientation

President's Message



In his book "Tortured Wonders" author Rodney Clapp asks readers to imagine a young man attempting to play football by himself. Tossing a football in the air and then running to catch it, says Clapp, fails to reflect a sport that requires other participants. Some things just cannot be done alone.

The illustration is meant to point out that our humanity is not fulfilled in solitary, private, or individualistic spaces. And, in the same way, our spiritual growth cannot occur in isolation.

Clapp's football illustration is meant to make the reader feel the absurdity of trying to live a fully human life alone, just as it would be absurd to try to play football alone. I think there is a corollary for institutions as well. We thrive when we partner with others to co-fulfill our individual and collective missions.

This is evident throughout Paul's writing in the New Testament. For example, in Romans 12:1 he writes: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship." Interestingly, the Greek for "bodies" is plural but singular for "sacrifice." Given this, the passage describes what has been called Paul's "fundamental emphasis on community."

Similarly, in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul writes about a varied "body" of believers working toward a singular commitment. "There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work" (1 Cor. 12:5-6).

The metaphor is timeless. Similarly, the strength of collaborative partnership at Asbury University has been evident to me in several ways. We recently hosted our second colloquium with Asbury Theological Seminary on Artificial Intelligence and the Christian Imagination.

Our partnership with CHI St. Joseph's Health in Lexington affords us the opportunity to provide

competitive nursing scholarships for incoming students and helps secure them a job after graduation.

We partner with granting agencies to fulfill initiatives core to our mission. This includes Set Apart Retreats for students, Launching Well Retreats for alumni, and the No Debt Fund to help college seniors graduate debt free.

We partner with ministries contiguous to our campus — World Gospel Mission, One Mission Society, and The Salvation Army — to provide embodied student ministry services, discipleship, and travel abroad opportunities. And Asbury thrives when our partnerships with local businesses, city government officials, law enforcement, ministry leaders, and state representatives are strong.

Perhaps our greatest partnership is with our alumni base who provide prayer for Asbury, financial support, stay connected to the school and other alumni, and gift us with their time.

These are not simply strategic partnerships toward a desired end. Our collaborative work with others may be better described, to borrow an expression by author David Brooks, as "a thick jungle of loving attachments."

Collaborating with like-minded constituencies reaps a harvest of benefits for all and ultimately spills over into overwhelming gratitude.

Whatever the future may bring, sustainable flourishing for Asbury University will not occur in isolation. We are better when we lock arms in a collaborative spirit with key leaders, institutions, philanthropists, and alumni.



Kevin J. Brown, Ph.D.
President

JUNE 8-12 ▲
ImpactU

JUNE 8-17 ▲
Youth Becoming Leaders

JUNE 15-19 ▲
SummitCamp

JUNE 19
Eagle Days New Student Orientation

JUNE 26 📅
Hadassah Women of Asbury Tea

JUNE 26-28 📅
Reunion

JULY 10
Eagle Days New Student Orientation

For more Information



ADVANCEMENT EVENTS
advancement@asbury.edu



ADMISSIONS EVENTS
asbury.edu/visit-events



HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS
asbury.edu/camps



Salvation Army officers from around the country regularly visit Asbury's campus in the summer for continuing education opportunities that are relevant to their fieldwork.

Partnerships for a Purpose.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

04

In today's higher education landscape, college learning extends well beyond the classroom. Dual-credit programs, internships, study abroad, and partnerships with corporations, foundations, and other institutions now shape a truly integrated academic experience.

At Asbury University, this vision comes to life through distinctive programs that merge innovation with mission like the Police Mount Training program in Equine Studies; the Student No Debt Fund in the School of Business; the Jessamine Connection Program for special needs students; and the FORGED youth ministry program in the School of Christian Studies.

These creative facets of education, many made possible by donor generosity or marketplace need, enrich learning and embody Asbury's mission to advance the cause of Christ around the world. By equipping leaders, strengthening organizations, and expanding opportunities wherever they arise, Asbury empowers students to live out their calling in a dynamic educational world.

In the non-traditional program space, these collaborations have partnered with academic programs and become powerful expressions of the school's mission, equipping leaders wherever they serve.

Continued on page 06





FORGED to Last: Raising Up Next Generation Leaders

FORGED
YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING PROGRAM

Across the country, youth ministries are facing a pressing challenge: developing leaders who are spiritually mature, emotionally resilient, and prepared for long-term service. High turnover and increasing demands have left many youth workers stretched thin and under-supported.

Asbury University's FORGED Youth Ministry Training Program in partnership with The Salvation Army was created to meet that need. This two-year, formation-focused program equips youth workers not only with practical ministry skills, but with the spiritual depth and community support necessary for sustainable leadership.

Rather than offering short-term training, FORGED develops leaders from the inside out. Participants engage in quarterly small-group sessions focused on spiritual formation, relational ministry, and conflict management. They also receive bi-monthly one-on-one coaching, providing space for reflection, accountability, and personal spiritual growth, an essential foundation for longevity in ministry.

Three retreats on Asbury's campus anchor the experience, giving participants time away from daily pressures to pray, learn, and build lasting relationships within their cohort. Many graduates remain connected long after the program ends.

Led by Dr. Brian Hull, Associate Dean of the School of Christian Studies, the FORGED team brings decades of ministry experience and research to the training process.

"The most important part of ministry longevity is caring for your own soul," Hull explains. "Forged helps youth workers grow spiritually while strengthening their ministry skills."

FORGED reflects Asbury's commitment to holistic, Christ-centered education forming leaders who are grounded in faith, equipped for ministry, and prepared to serve for the long haul. As graduates thrive and invest in the next generation, the impact is multiplying in churches and communities across the country.



TeamAU PARTNERSHIPS HELP BUILD PROGRAM

Asbury Athletics, comprised of more than 400 student-athletes, coaches and staff, is proud to partner with the following Corporate Sponsors that have made the commitment to support #TeamAU. These organizations play an important role in Asbury's ability to build an intercollegiate athletics program that equips student-athletes to Serve, Train, and Compete for the Glory of God.

- First Southern National Bank
- G&J Pepsi
- The Kessinger Lee Group
- APM Paving
- Bluegrass Orthopaedics
- Chick-fil-A
- Faithful Platform
- Visit Jessamine
- Gold Shield Transportation
- Suff's Furniture
- Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance (KEMI)
- eCampus.com
- Nike - BSN Sports
- Varner's Turf Management

Left: Scholar Athlete Tyler Hall '27 chose to attend Asbury largely due to the Christian Education Partnership program.





Asbury students have unique opportunities through partnerships, some of which help them come to Asbury.

The Christian Education Partnership (CEP) allows for a more streamlined and affordable pathway to Asbury with nearly a dozen private Christian schools across the state.



"I am thankful for Asbury's partnership with Lexington Latin School because I went into college already knowing a lot of older students that I knew from high school," said **Max Voelkert '29**. "I was able to ask them about rooming, classes, and general college advice and that was really helpful going into a new environment."

Sevasti Leveniotti '25 currently serves as a graduate assistant for TeamAU while earning her MBA and has worked in multiple partnership capacities in her time at Asbury, including working at the Olympics and assisting with industry partners on instructional design projects. She currently helps manage Asbury's Digital Sports Network for TeamAU.



Tyler Hall '27 also came to Asbury via Lexington Christian Academy through the CEP. He is a TeamAU Scholar Athlete, playing on the basketball team, and averaged 7.1 points per game for the Eagles in the recent season. He said the partnership was a main factor for him choosing Asbury.

Continued from page 04

EQUIPPED FOR FRONT LINE MINISTRY

For Salvation Army officers serving communities across the United States, the demands of ministry are immediate, varied, and deeply human. Asbury University is honored to support their work by providing continuing education opportunities designed specifically for their context. Asbury is grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside these dedicated leaders as they serve on the front lines of meeting physical, spiritual, and relational needs across the nation.

Officers in both the Eastern and Southern Territories can participate in online and hybrid courses that allow them to read, reflect, and apply theological frameworks and practical principles directly to their daily ministry. Some officers enroll in individual courses to deepen their skills, while others pursue full degree programs that strengthen their leadership over the long term.

Recognizing the diverse linguistic backgrounds of Salvation Army officers, Asbury also developed a multi-year English as a Second Language (ESL) program tailored to ministry leadership. The curriculum focuses on real world vocabulary, communication skills, and cultural engagement — essential tools for those serving in multilingual and multicultural communities.

"When (Salvation Army) officers talk about their continuing education experience at Asbury University, it is with a certainty that this is where God means them to be," said Lt. Colonel Sandra Jackson, Divisional Director of Women's Ministries at The Salvation Army's Greater New York Division. "They are enriched by the classes, the deeper learning, and amazing professors and staff who pour into them toward excellence in all areas of their lives, their ministry, and their living. They appreciate the opportunity and investment."

BRINGING LEARNING EXPERTISE TO THE WORKPLACE

In the business world, Asbury is focused on key corporate partners. The School of Communication Arts has a growing specialization in Instructional Design (ID) that has opened the door to a wide range of partnerships with businesses seeking to modernize and streamline their internal training. This rapidly developing field at the intersection of education, technology, and organizational development has become an area where Asbury's expertise shines.

To give students hands-on experience and to help organizations strengthen their professional development systems, Asbury has taken on multiple contract projects focused on redesigning employee onboarding and training processes. Through these collaborations, Asbury teams create organized, digital learning experiences that allow supervisors to focus more fully on the interpersonal aspects of training and onboarding.

Working with partners, staff and students are gaining exposure to industry-standard tools and innovative workflows. These experiences are not only sharpening students' skills but also delivering practical solutions that enhance efficiency, consistency, and engagement in partner organizations.



“Working on real-world projects with corporate partners like GE Aerospace and Lexington Clinic has allowed me to apply what I’ve learned during my studies at Asbury and see firsthand how instructional design can strengthen and enhance already successful organizations and institutions,” said **Sevasti Leveniotti ’25**, who currently is pursuing an MBA at Asbury.

AN INVITATION TO FUTURE PARTNERS

As Asbury’s partnerships continue to grow, so does the vision for what is possible. We believe deeply in the power of collaboration, pairing our expertise with the needs of organizations committed to meaningful work.

If your business, nonprofit, or ministry could benefit from customized training materials, digital learning solutions, or support in building an effective onboarding process, we would be glad to explore what a partnership might look like.

“Partnership programs sit at the crossroads of ministry, innovation, and the future of work. Every time our students partner with an organization, whether a nonprofit, a ministry, or a major employer, they’re learning how to translate their academic training into tools that improve workplaces,” said Asbury’s Director of Nontraditional Education **Kristi Boss MBA ’20** “These projects don’t just build technical skills; they form servant-minded leaders who can create clarity and design solutions that honor the dignity of every learner. That is the heart of Asbury’s mission, and it’s why these partnerships matter.”

SAYING “YES” TO TRANSFORMATION

All of these opportunities and others like them enable students to move through their academic career with practical and critical thinking skills that are integrated within a Christ-centered framework. Asbury remains committed to equipping leaders, strengthening organizations, and expanding learning opportunities wherever they are needed.

“Through the extraordinary generosity of donors and our strategic partnerships, Asbury University can offer new forms of student value. This University is providing Christ-centered opportunities for growth and learning, and our students are saying ‘yes’ to God and experiencing transformation. The world needs Asbury graduates. To sustain and strengthen this work, we need the steady partnership of those who believe in our mission.”



Dr. Kevin J. Brown
President

Continued on page 8

EXPERIENCE THE WONDER
OF GOD’S CREATION THROUGH
THE ADVENTURES WITH

Asbury Travel Program.

All are invited to join Asbury in
September 2027 for a trip to New
England and Canada.



2025 Passages of the Bible Tour to Greece, Egypt, Cyprus and Turkey.

More information is available at [asbury.edu/alumni/travel-program](https://www.asbury.edu/alumni/travel-program).



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Asbury University Board of Trustees provides strategic leadership and spiritual guidance to ensure the University fulfills its mission of academic excellence and spiritual vitality. The 2025-26 Board of Trustees is pictured here.

Back row, left to right: Dr. Delvin J. Pikes, Rev. John G. Rinehimer '01, Mr. Rob L. Aukerman '81, Dr. Waldon Garriss '81, Mr. C.E. Crouse, Jr. '68, Mr. Larry D. Brown '80, Chair; Mr. Neal R. Schultz '03, Dr. OJ Oleka, Mr. Timothy A. Shell '82, Mr. Andrew J. Coleman '98, Vice Chair. **Front row, left to right:** Rev. Dr. Jorge Acevedo '84, Mr. Jeffrey E. Stryker '87, Dr. Stephen K. Toadvine '82, Mrs. Ashleigh Lindsay '98 Behnke, Dr. Jamie Corbett '04 Higdon, Mrs. Emily Barlage '09 Cellier, Rev. Lisa Friedeman '77 Ausley, Dr. Elaine Davis '98 Bernius, Secretary; Dr. Janine Corbett '76 Jones, Mr. Ron Ball '72, Col. Richard O. Speakman '01, Rev. Keith D. Boyette

Continued from page 07

PARTNERSHIPS THAT ENHANCE STUDENT VALUE

This list is a sampling of the dozens of key opportunities that Asbury University offers for the benefit of its students, the community, alumni and business partners — most of all to help advance the cause of Christ around the world.

CHI Saint Joseph's Health Partnership: Asbury's healthcare workforce partner provides approved students with tuition scholarships for Nursing at Asbury University. Upon graduation, those students will be guaranteed employment at CHI.

No Debt Scholarship Fund: This initiative, piloted in the Dayton School of Business, is designed to provide students a pathway to graduate debt-free. Awarding approximately \$200,000, students must apply and meet specific criteria to be considered for this funding. When fully funded, the program will expand to allow all eligible undergraduate students to apply.

Service Mounts Program: What began with the National Police Horse Colloquium in 2001, has grown into a program producing safe, reliable Percheron/Thorough bred crossed horses that are ready for active duty in mounted units. Asbury University is the only university in America with a police horse training program conducted by the students.

Bluegrass Orthopaedics Rehabilitation Team: Athletic trainers support athletes and the Athletic Training and Rehab facility in the Luce Physical Activities Center. This partnership also recognizes the Athlete of the Week.

Asbury Theological Seminary & Asbury University

Colloquium: This annual discussion creates space for both institutions to wrestle through challenges and opportunities on the educational horizon. In November 2025, the topic of discussion was Christian Imagination in the Age of AI.

T.W. Lewis Foundation: Asbury recently received a \$200,000 grant from this foundation to launch a Center for Student Success. This two-year partnership co-sponsors a leadership speaker series, two retreats per year for young alumni who graduated recently, use of the Indigo Career Assessments, distribution of the book, "Solid Ground," and the Dayton School of Business (DSB) Capstone Project course.

Barnabas Foundation: Partnering with this Foundation, Asbury is able to provide stewardship legacy planning from a distinctly Christian worldview free to University donors.

The Price Foundation: Partnering with Asbury to provide a Biblical worldview retreat for all students, these Set Apart Retreats include a blend of full group discussions, workshops, small group time, games and free time to encourage students to think deeply about their faith and God's created purpose for them.

Christian Education Partnerships: Even before students become college aged, they are invited into the world of higher education and dual-credit programming through Asbury's robust Christian Education Partnerships. This allows students, teachers and families in multiple Christian K-12 schools around Kentucky to take advantage of discounted tuition rates and other partnership perks.

International Broadcast Center: Asbury students, for more than 40 years (covering 16 Olympic Games), have been serving in paid positions alongside faculty and alumni to help broadcast the largest television production in the world, the Olympic Games. This partnership and connection has garnered positions across the globe, as well as a few Emmys.

“My experience at the Olympics was very informative and encouraging! It was nice being able to step into a worldwide production feeling confident that I could keep up with the professionals,” said **Cody York '26**.

York is a media communications major with a film production emphasis and was one of 30 current students and 15 alumni who traveled to Italy in February of this year to work at the Winter Olympics.



Cody York '26 worked at the snowboard events at the 2026 Winter Olympics..

DSB Mentorship Program: The Dayton School of Business (DSB) continues to expand its vision for meaningful mentorship by connecting students and professionals in ways that transform both career development and spiritual growth. The DSB Mentorship Program is a dynamic community where students are equipped to live out their faith in the marketplace. Through one-on-one mentorship, students are paired with experienced professionals who offer guidance, wisdom, and encouragement.

“We firmly believe that offering quality mentorship opportunities for DSB students creates for our graduates a distinct competitive advantage in the marketplace, by connecting them with Christ-centered role models who embody the mission of the DSB: to be the best business school for the world,” said Mentorship Program Director and Associate Professor of Marketing Dr. Michael Ross.

Give, Save, Spend: This curriculum provides three free college credits for high school students thanks to generous grant funding. The financial discipleship model enables students to complete their Kentucky financial literacy requirement and begin earning college credit, all within the context of a biblical worldview.

From Coursework to Community Change

For Salvation Army officers pursuing their ministry degree online with Asbury University, the Capstone project represents both a culmination and a launching point. Designed to integrate everything learned throughout the program, the capstone guides officers through the research and development of an implementable ministry project created specifically for their local community.

What makes the experience especially meaningful for Salvation Army officers is its practicality. Each project is birthed directly from the daily realities of their appointment, whether addressing food insecurity, youth engagement, community discipleship, church growth, or social service gaps. The process equips officers with tools they will use throughout their careers—skills in project management, strategic planning, assessment, and collaboration—all grounded in a commitment to serve their neighbors with wisdom and compassion.

Many graduates report that their capstone project did not end with the course; instead, it became a living ministry initiative that continued to grow long after graduation.

The result is a learning experience that not only educates but empowers—equipping officers to design meaningful, sustainable programs that make a tangible impact where God has placed them.

“The Capstone course guided us in identifying opportunities in ministry while prayerfully and methodically developing them to serve our community more effectively. The Salvation Army’s partnership with Asbury honored our roots while helping shape and equip us into more intentional, prepared leaders for ministry today.”



Captain Isabella Porchetti,
The Salvation Army, Trenton
Citadel Corps, Trenton, NJ



Rewriting the Rules:

AJ STICH '06 IS REDEFINING WHAT SCHOOL CAN BE

An Asbury graduate turns frustration into innovation and hope for the next generation of students.

A.J. Stich '06 is the Greater Dayton School's founding principal and is helping create better ways for children to learn.



AJ STICH '06 WAS READY TO WALK AWAY.

After seven years and four major budget cuts as a principal in Chicago's public schools, he'd reached a breaking point. "I felt done with the system," he said. "There's only so much you can do when the resources keep shrinking."

But a job listing caught his attention. A philanthropist in Dayton, Ohio, was committing hundreds of millions to build a world-class school for underserved students. The vision was bold, disruptive, and perhaps a little idealistic. For Stich, it was exactly the kind of challenge he'd been wanting.

So instead of walking away from education, he stepped into one of its most radical experiments: The Greater Dayton School.

Education hadn't always been his plan. As a media communications major, Stich imagined a future in film or television, not in classrooms lined with crayon drawings and reading charts. After graduation, he and a few friends took teaching jobs in Taiwan "just for fun so we could see the world." However, what began as an adventure turned into something deeper. "That's where I caught the education bug," he said.

Returning to the U.S., Stich joined Teach for America and began teaching in Memphis City Schools. There, he got his first clear look at the deep divide in American education. "I realized there are really two systems in this country — one for the middle and upper class, and one for the poor. I didn't know that because I grew up middle class. It was a wake-up call."

That realization pushed him to Harvard to study education policy, determined to understand and change the inequities he'd seen firsthand.

The Greater Dayton School opened in 2022, with Stich as founding principal. From the start, it moved beyond the traditional mold. There are no grade levels or standardized tests. Instead, learning is individualized, paced by mastery and supported by robust mental, physical, and academic care.

"Our goal is to break generational poverty," Stich said. "We talk about the 'age 27 goals,' that by that age, our graduates will be financially independent, physically and mentally healthy, and in a meaningful career. Those things don't happen by accident. We start teaching those skills early."

The school's campus hums with energy and intention. Fresh fruit and vegetables are served at every meal. Only water is offered during the day. Students log up to two hours of physical activity daily. And a partnership with Dayton Children's Hospital ensures they have



access to healthcare on site. Even the school dog is part of that philosophy. “We’re educating the whole child, remembering what it means to be human.”

Faith plays a steady role in Stich’s journey. “We’re not a faith-based school,” he said, “but my ‘why’ is connected to my faith. Asbury instilled that in me — that your career should reflect your calling. For me, faith means doing the most good for the most people with the skills I’ve been given.”

He applies that same conviction to the role of technology in education. Stich knows many schools have rushed to adopt “EdTech” tools without real results, but he’s hopeful about what’s coming. “AI tutors are going to change everything,” he said. “They can bring individualized learning to any student in any subject. Saying all EdTech is bad is like saying the Model T was a failure, so we should go back to horses.”

Stich knows innovation can’t only exist in well-funded spaces. “This can be done at any school in America,” he insisted. “It just takes a new mindset.” His ideas for national reform are simple but bold. They include bringing back physical fitness accountability, overhauling the school lunch program, and giving students the freedom to learn at their own pace without grade level restrictions. “We need to rethink what success looks like,” Stich said. “That’s what we’re doing every day here in Dayton.”



SAVE *the* DATE

June 26-28, 2026

Asbury.edu/reunion



SPECIAL EDUCATION FACULTY PUBLISH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY BOOK

Associate Professor of Special Education **Dr. Allie Rhodes '97** and Asbury Director of Academic Accessibility Resources Dr. Victoria Slocum recently published a book titled: "An Evidence-Based Guide to Assistive Technology Meeting the Needs of All Students with Disabilities" (available as an accessible e-book and in print format). This book is part of the Evidence-Based Practices Series, which includes "The Practical Guide to High-Leverage Practices in Special Education: The Purposeful 'How' to Enhance Classroom Rigor," written by co-authors **Dr. Ruby Owiny '96** and Dr. Kyena Cornelius. Rhodes and Slocum contributed chapters to this book published in 2024. **2**

SHAW SCHOOL OF SCIENCES FACULTY PRESENT RESEARCH AT KENTUCKY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Faculty in the Asbury Shaw School of Sciences participated in the Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS) annual conference. Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Marvin Ruffner chaired and moderated the Ecology section (oral presentations). Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Dr. Laura Shingledecker '91 Walther** served as KAS secretary. Professor of Biology Dr. Ben Brammell presented a talk in the Ecology section ("Evaluation of urban ecological restoration through the use of vertebrate eDNA metabarcoding surveys"), and the KAS recognized him as the newly elected Vice-President of KAS.

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES DEAN PUBLISHES THEOLOGICAL BOOK ON EXORCISM

Dean of the School of Christian Studies, **Dr. W. Brian Shelton '89**, recently published a book titled: "Theology of a Diary: The 1949 St. Louis Exorcism." This new book is part of the McMaster Divinity College Theological Studies Series, vol. 10 through Pickwick Publications. The work is a fascinating retelling of a striking episode in the life of the church that intersects with popular culture.

"In an age when natural explanations seem to regulate discourse around the supernatural, some cases seem to resist naturalistic reasoning. Such is the example of the best-documented case of exorcism in the twentieth century that lies behind the film, 'The Exorcist,'" Shelton said. "While the movie stands as a hallmark of cinematic and cultural history, few realize that its origin lies in a real story of the demonization of a Washington, D.C. boy and an exorcism delivered by St. Louis Jesuit priests. The case has received attention from social scientists, journalists, and paranormalists, all who explain the events with causal theories other than the preternatural (demonic) or supernatural (divine)." **3 4**

ASBURY UNIVERSITY SECURES \$400,000 FOR NURSING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

On December 9, Asbury University Nursing received a \$400,000 workforce development grant through the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund to support student scholarships in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The award includes \$200,000 of state funding from CPE, matched dollar-for-dollar by CHI Saint Joseph Health, Asbury University's healthcare workforce partner. The Healthcare Workforce Collaboratory announced the award at The Campbell House in Lexington, which convened healthcare leaders, educators, and workforce partners from across the Commonwealth. **1**

ENGLISH PROFESSOR PUBLISHES GUIDE TO TWENTY TIMELESS POEMS

Professor of English Dr. Devin Brown recently published a poetry anthology titled "Twenty Timeless Poems." Featuring such favorites as "The Road Not Taken," "In the Bleak Mid-Winter," and Shakespeare's "Sonnet 73," the book includes a paraphrase and a thorough discussion of each poem as well as interesting information about its author and a number of fun facts.

ESL PROFESSOR PRESENTS AT AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS CONFERENCE

In March, Assistant Professor of ESL Dr. Elizabeth King presented a chapter of her dissertation at the American Association of Applied Linguistics annual conference, with her presentation titled: "Instagram teacher-influencers riding the 'Korean Wave.'"

EQUINE STUDENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Asbury University Equine Studies students, **Gracie Friese '27** and **McKenna Rumage '27**, received nationally competitive scholarships from the EQUUS Foundation, which gave \$40,000 overall in scholarships to 33 undergraduate and graduate level students enrolled in equine studies and veterinary programs around the U.S.

NEW TESTAMENT SCHOLAR PRESENTS PAPER ON AI AT WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In March, Professor of New Testament Dr. Suzanne Nicholson presented a paper titled, "Snapshot of the Living Word: AI, the Means of Grace, and Spiritual Formation" at the Wesleyan Theological Society's annual meeting. Nicholson attended The John Wesley Institute's third summit with Wesleyan scholars to write collaboratively a statement on the nature of Scripture. Nicholson also finished writing a chapter for a forthcoming book called "Sermons for America" through the John Wesley Institute. **5**



STUDENT-ATHLETE PROFILE

Maggie Perry

Asbury women's soccer exercise science major **Maggie Perry '27** is being used by God during her time at AU, experiencing impact on and off the field while serving, training, and competing for the glory of God.

The junior from Lexington, Ky., helped lead her team to the CCS Championship Game and a berth in the NCCAA Championship Tournament. She was named to the CCS All-Conference Second-Team, an NCCAA Second-Team All-American, and to the NCCAA Mid-east All-Region team in her third season at AU.

Q How have you grown spiritually during your time at Asbury?

A *My time at Asbury has been spiritually transformative and has pushed me to think about how I live out my faith. I've learned to rely on God in both victories and challenges, and I've grown in my prayer life and understanding of His purpose for me. Living on a campus that puts God first is an incredible privilege and one that can be so easy to take for granted. I'm incredibly thankful I get to compete for the glory of God at a university that only puts God first.*

Q What does serving, training, and competing for the glory of God mean to you?

A *I picture being the hands and feet of Jesus in the gift of competing. Whether it be to opponents, teammates, coaches, professors, we have the blessed ability to glorify Him in every action we take and just thank Him for it all. Wins, losses, good days and bad, His name is lifted up.*

Q Who are some of the coaches, faculty and staff that have impacted you at AU?

A *Coach **Zach Welch '13** has served as a huge encouragement in my growth and development, both as an athlete and as a person. While pushing me to grow into my role on the field, he has shown me what authentic leadership truly looks like. Both he and Coach Steve remind me each day how to put the person before the player. Dr. Elise Kearns, professor of exercise science, has also served as a wonderful mentor in my academics and future profession.*

Q How has God impacted your walk with Him during your time at Asbury?

A *I have witnessed God's goodness in a multitude of ways that go beyond myself! He has shown me over the past three years what unending love really looks like. Regardless of circumstance and like the sheep in Luke 15, there is nowhere we could wander to be too far from the love and care of our Shepherd. I feel overwhelmed by the blessing of the friendships I have made over these past few years, and I wouldn't be who I am today without these friendships!*

Q What advice would you give incoming students to Asbury?

A *Be present in the moment, even on the days when it's hard to show up to practice or classes are getting heavy. Don't look too far ahead or worry about what's to come next, but recognize how far you've come. Embrace the community your sport provides you, and don't forget to have fun!*



1

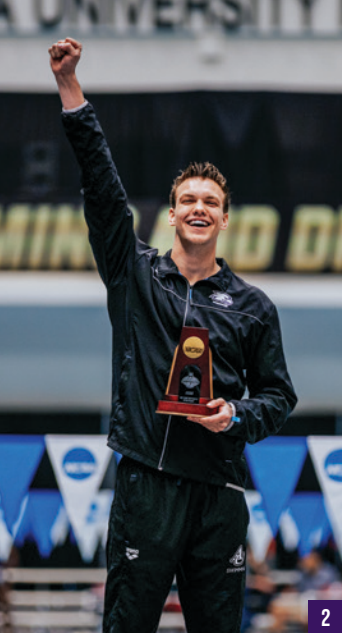
BONOW '28 EARNS ALL AMERICAN HONORS AT NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sophomore standout **Ethan Bonow** delivered another impressive performance on the national stage, representing Asbury University for the second consecutive year at the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Division III Swimming & Diving National Championships.

The Crawford, Texas, native competed in three events at the NCAA Championship, including his signature race—the 100 butterfly—along with the 50 and 100 freestyle. After posting a 47.69 in the prelims of the 100 butterfly to qualify for the finals, Bonow followed with a 47.74 in the evening session to secure a fifth-place finish and earn NCAA First Team All-American honors. He recorded a time of 44.52 in the 100 freestyle, finishing 19th in the nation and opened the competition with a 20.44 in the 50 freestyle, placing 38th nationally.

"A minute does not go by without remembering how grateful I am to be able to serve the Lord in this capacity," Bonow said. "He has given me such an amazing coach who has guided my training so faithfully. I am overwhelmed by the support I have received from the Asbury community, my friends and my family back home."

"I'm so incredibly proud of Ethan for the ways he uses his talents to point people to Jesus; to finish top five in the country in anything is pretty special," said Head Coach **Graham Duncan '16**. "I'm so grateful for the story God is telling throughout this experience and to represent Asbury Swimming on the national stage." **1 2**



WYNN HARRIS NAMED HEAD BASEBALL COACH

In January, TeamAU announced the appointment of Wynn Harris as its new head baseball coach. Harris succeeds Manny Cervantes who served for 11 years before accepting a new role on the coaching staff at Tennessee Tech.

Harris brings over 20 years of coaching and educational experience, highlighted by effective player development, postseason success, and program leadership across high school and collegiate baseball. Since 2022, he has served as the top Assistant Baseball Coach at Asbury.

Prior to his time at Asbury, Harris led the baseball program at Lexington Christian Academy (LCA) from 2017-2022, guiding LCA to multiple postseason appearances and a 2022 District Championship while earning Region Coach of the Year honors.

Before that, he spent more than a decade as Head Baseball Coach at South Laurel High School, directing teams to multiple regional championships and deep state tournament runs. Harris also served as a Graduate Assistant Baseball Coach at Southern Arkansas University.

"I am honored and humbled to lead the Eagles baseball program," Harris said. "Asbury's commitment to Christ-centered excellence resonates with my values as a coach, teacher, and mentor. I look forward to partnering with our student-athletes, coaches, and the entire Eagle community to continue building a program focused on character, competition, and growth."

Harris holds a Master of Education in Administrative Instructional Leadership and a Bachelor of Science in History and Secondary Education from the University of the Cumberlands. Beyond his coaching achievements, he has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to service, including volunteer work with the Toyota Bluegrass Miracle League and international baseball missions, and leadership roles within the Kentucky High School Baseball Coaches Association. ³

ASBURY ANNOUNCES CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TENNIS FACILITY

Construction begins this spring on a new donor-funded, on-campus tennis facility, which includes six lighted courts and locker rooms for the men's and women's teams. The project is set to be completed in August 2026, in time for the fall semester.

Heading into his 18th season as coach of the men and 16th for the women, head coach Jarred Miller has coached the men's and women's Asbury tennis teams to more than 300 career combined wins making him the winningest head coach in school history for both programs.

"Having our own on-campus tennis facility is going to allow these defending conference champions to show what they can do as athletes," Miller said. "Working with Asbury student-athletes over the past 18 years has been a true highlight as I watch them grow into adults and Christ followers."

"I have really enjoyed playing tennis at Asbury because it pushes me physically and mentally, helping me stay disciplined, competitive, and constantly improving my game," said the CCS Women's Tennis Rookie of the Year, AU sophomore **Kat Nova**. "I am especially excited about the new tennis facility. It will allow players to train at a higher level and elevate the overall competitiveness of the tennis program." ⁴

HOW TO FOLLOW ASBURY ATHLETICS

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

- ▶ Follow **@asburyeagles** on Instagram, X, Facebook, YouTube, or **asburyeagles.com**
- ▶ Watch all TeamAU home games live on **AsburySportsDigitalNetwork.com**
- ▶ Shop Asbury gear via the "Shop" button at **asburyeagles.com**



JOE BRUNER NAMED VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT LIFE

In January, Asbury University named Joe Bruner as vice president of student life. Bruner brings 24 years of student life experience across Baylor University and Asbury University, including more than 18 years serving Asbury's campus community. He began serving at Asbury in 2008, most recently as assistant Vice President of student life.

"Joe Bruner is a trusted leader who understands the heart of Asbury University and the transformative power of residential Christian education," said Asbury University President Dr. Kevin Brown. "His experience, steady leadership and genuine care for students make him well prepared to lead this critical area of campus life. His impact is already evident in the strength of our residential community and the way students are supported and challenged to grow."

During his tenure, Bruner has strengthened the residential experience, advanced student support services, and cultivated a campus culture centered on belonging, spiritual formation and personal growth. His leadership reflects a deep commitment to students and a focus on ensuring that Asbury's transformational experience is lived out in everyday campus life.

ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR RECEIVES PRESIDENT'S AWARD FROM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In January, Asbury University's Director of Alumni Relations **Bert Jones '89** received the President's Award from the Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce in Nicholasville, Ky. Jones will serve on the Chamber Board this year.

"Bert Jones was my first pastor, mentor and real friend when I needed it the most as 21-year-old coming out of a life of addiction just trying to find my footing in my new found faith," said Todd Johns, Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce President and Executive Director of Revive Ministries, a nonprofit with a substance use treatment program that has served over 4,000 clients across a multi-phase program. "He shared his life with me, poured into me and set me on a trajectory that I never thought possible, including living and serving here in Kentucky."

HONORS PROGRAM WELCOMES SPRING GUESTS

Sponsored by the Asbury University Honors Program (AUHP) Colloquium Series, Rev. Dr. Malcolm Guite, a priest, poet, singer-songwriter, and professor of English at Cambridge University, spoke in Chapel and in the Asbury Shaw Collaborative Learning Center on February 2, 2026. His lecture, titled "Image and Imagination: Some Reflections on the Creative Imagination as an Aspect of the Imago Dei," invited students and guests to consider creativity as a vital expression of being made in the image of God.

And in January, AUHP welcomed educator and historian David Kennedy for a powerful lecture titled "Auschwitz as a Place of Learning: The History and Work of the International Youth Meeting Centre in Oświęcim." The presentation drew students, faculty, and community members for an evening of education, reflection, and dialogue.

Kennedy shared insights from his work at the International Youth Meeting Centre (IYMC) in Oświęcim, Poland: an educational institution founded through collaboration between the German peace organization, Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, and the City of Oświęcim.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRODUCES AN OPERA

In March, the Music Department produced Gian Carlo Menotti's "The Old Maid and the Thief" with director Dr. Marie-France Duclos and assistant director Dr. Sherri Phelps. **Dr. May Ann Wilder '03** accompanied on piano for the cast including **Gentry Osbourn '27, Mikah Saub '27, Emma Lightner '28, Nathan Smith '27, Erin Robinette '28, Faith Alford '26, Heidi Pym '28 and Charles Madsen '28.**

STEPHEN SIZEMORE NAMED CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



Asbury University named Stephen Sizemore as Vice President for Strategic Finance and Chief Financial Officer, a key leadership role supporting the University's long-term financial strength and mission-driven growth.

Sizemore brings more than 20 years of experience in strategy, consulting, and financial analytics, with a track record of equipping executive leaders across higher education and corporate settings. Known for translating complex data into clear, actionable insights, he has helped organizations strengthen performance, improve forecasting, and make informed decisions that support sustainable growth.

"Stephen Sizemore is an incredible addition to an already strong executive leadership team at Asbury University," said President Dr. Kevin Brown. "An experienced professional, Stephen's strategic financial expertise spans corporate and higher education settings. This is a key hire for Asbury's future!"

Previously, Sizemore served as a senior strategy and analytics leader at the corporate level and as Chief Financial Officer for the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment at the University of Kentucky. Across both roles, he worked closely with senior leaders to enhance financial performance and drive more effective business practices.

"I'm grateful and excited for the opportunity to join Asbury University," said Sizemore. "I look forward to collaborating with colleagues across the campus. My goal is to serve as a faithful steward of the University's resources, helping ensure they are managed with clarity and purpose to support students and the Asbury mission."



CLASS OF 2026 REFLECTS ON OUTPOURING IMPACT, THREE YEARS LATER

Asbury University seniors were freshmen when the Outpouring broke out in 2023. The University produced a video recently sharing about the lasting impact of the Outpouring through the perspective of some of those graduating seniors. Visit asbury.edu/outpouring to view the video and hear from students.



A FLOURISHING 'WHAM' ON CAMPUS

Worship Him at Midnight (WHAM) continues to flourish as a student-led worship gathering in Hughes Auditorium. On a Friday night each month, students fill Hughes Auditorium and lead one another in wholehearted worship that often continues late into the night. During the 2025–2026 academic year, WHAM welcomed more than 800 students monthly, drawing many from universities across central Kentucky. What began as a traditional campus worship night has grown into a regional movement of prayer and praise.

The 2023 Asbury Outpouring directly shaped WHAM, transforming it into a bold, authentic, and deeply moving time of worship and fellowship for students. Earlier this year, attendance surpassed 1,000, evidence of a growing hunger for Christ among this generation.

Fully led by students, WHAM creates a sacred space for young adults to seek the Lord together. We are encouraged and inspired by the spiritual passion evident in these gatherings.

RENOVATED DINING HALL WILL OPEN FOR STUDENTS IN THE FALL

A renovation of the dining hall will begin immediately following commencement, with completion scheduled before the start of the Fall 2026 semester. Key elements of the project include:

- new seating and flooring
- a modernized open layout
- new restrooms
- improved dish return area
- new dessert station
- two new beverage stations
- the private dining area will be upgraded and expanded to accommodate up to 200 people.

The renovations are funded through the agreement with Asbury's new food service vendor, Fresh Ideas.



Big Hearts,

BANANA SPLIT PIE, AND BENEVOLENCE



18

Donor Highlights

Lori Lauter '87 Wright grew up in Wilmore in a home overflowing with love, laughter, and students coming and going. As the only child of **Dr. Roy '64 "Prof"** and **Mrs. Sue Bowyer '71 Lauter**, she can recall more than 100 students and young couples who lived at 409 Akers Drive over the years—some for a few days, others for a few years.

Prof Lauter, a beloved Asbury education professor, met countless young people through his missionary work, travels, and preaching—often encouraging them to come to Asbury to further their education. "Many didn't have the means," Lori recalled, "but my dad would find a way. He got them to Asbury, and Mom made it work—opening our home, cooking meals, even making her famous banana split pie. Dad would see the need, and Mom would fill it. She taught me to deeply value people. She modeled what that looked like from the very beginning."

While Prof was outgoing and visible, Sue, an elementary school teacher by training, quietly anchored their ministry with meals, conversation, and fresh sheets on every bed. "My

parents carried a burden for students who couldn't get to Asbury or couldn't stay due to finances," Lori said. "Mom was the glue holding us all together—the fixed point in the chaos."

Among those who benefited from the Lauters' generosity were **Heidi Raass '97 Spencer** and her husband, U.S. Air Force **Colonel William "Spence" Spencer '96**. The couple lived in the Lauters' basement apartment for three years while Spence completed his master's degree.

"We will forever be grateful for their generosity," Heidi said, "but even more for their influence. Sue became my second mother, and I called her 'Momma Sue.' Her recipes, advice, hospitality, and Christlike spirit became the model for the kind of woman I wanted to be. Her life of selfless service became my roadmap as an Air Force chaplain's wife for nearly three decades."

The Lauters' legacy of servant leadership continues through the Roy L. Lauter Servant Leadership Award, honoring student service for more than 25 years. To recognize her mother's

Left: Lori Lauter '87 Wright is pictured with parents, Dr. Roy '64 and Sue Bowyer '71 Lauter. Below: The Lauters have hosted generations of Asburians through the years.



'I DIDN'T WANT TO WAIT UNTIL I HAD MONEY TO GIVE'



Haven Emery '25, a double major in Christian Ministries and Bible Theology, minoring in Worship Arts and the Honors Program, is working on her MDiv at Duke Divinity and her MBA from Asbury with a heart to serve in the church. As a young alum, Emery felt

compelled to give back to the place and its people who invested so deeply in her.

"I didn't want to wait until I had money to give," said Emery. "If I waited, then I will never give because I will always think I don't have enough to give. So, I decided when I graduated I would not waste any time.

"I give because there is much fruit at Asbury. I am a better and more deeply rooted person in Christ because of faculty members like Dr. Brian Hull and my roommate for all four years, **Riley Hammond '25**.

"I could write a dissertation about Dr. Hull's impact on my life, call and belief. His humility and attention to excellence challenged me in my faith and calling. He taught me that questions are better than answers. He believed in me and my calling in my moments of doubt. It is clear that Dr. Hull, along with all the faculty at Asbury, are being obedient to their call, which encouraged me to be obedient to my call. Asbury really is a special place.

"That is why I give. It is an act of remembering. When we give, we are reminded of how God has been faithful to us. When we live as a people who remember that God has been faithful, we live in abundance. The truth is we are forgetful people. So, we must keep giving, we must keep rebuking an attitude of scarcity and reclaim the abundance that God has for us. And don't worry about how much you have to give. The cool thing about remembering is it was always meant to be a community activity. So just bring what you have."



“This fund is designed to help those who are struggling to stay at Asbury, I hope it blesses the next generation the way my parents blessed mine.”

— Lori Lauter '87 Wright

lifelong generosity, Lori recently created “Miss Sue” Lauter Banana Split Pie Fund, an endowed hospitality fund in support of students facing financial challenges while in school.

Every traditional undergraduate student at Asbury receives some form of financial assistance. Scholarships and creative funds like The “Miss Sue” Lauter Endowed Hospitality Fund help make that possible. To join in supporting this fund or to create one in honor of someone who has impacted your life, contact advancement@asbury.edu.



Scott Rohrer '09, Embrey Flener '21, Sarah Leckie '03 Hogencamp and Matt Hogencamp '07 worked together at the Super Bowl earlier this year.

ASBURY UNIVERSITY ALUMNI WORK THE 2026 SUPER BOWL

Media Communication Graduates Part of Broadcast History

This year, Asbury University alumni **Matt '07** and **Sarah Leckie '03 Hogencamp** worked at the 2026 Super Bowl with **Scott Rohrer '09**, **Embrey Flener '21**, **Vada Bennett '16**, and **Asa Callow '24**.

Matt worked as a lead technical manager over the Pre/Post show for Game Day. For a year, he planned and scouted as Director of Remote Technical Operations for NBC Sports before his assignment to Versant (USA Sports). Sarah and Callow worked as runners, taking commentators where they needed to go around the stadium on Game Day.

Rohrer was a tech manager, coordinating all equipment and its shipping of 37 tons to Alcatraz Island, helping to produce the first live broadcast from the island. Flener worked as a fiber tech on Alcatraz, installing fiber throughout the national park for camera signals to transmit to the stadium in Santa Clara. Bennett served as an engineer for the NBC-owned IP-based flypack at both Radio Row and on Alcatraz for the Super Bowl Pregame Show.

"This event was a full year in planning with five different trips to the Bay Area for surveys and three weeks on-site," said Matt, who now has worked two Super Bowl games. "I was honored to work with some of the most talented people in the broadcast industry to make history. Prior to our Pregame coverage, there had never been a live broadcast from Alcatraz, and we were granted the first permit to fly a drone from Alcatraz. I will never forget being in our production truck at Levi's Stadium when the signals came up for the first time from the island. For those of us on the leadership team, this was a special moment."

"Everything I've ever worked on in my life in broadcast has come through an Asbury connection, one way or another, and almost everyone I hire is an Asbury connection," Bennett said. "Matt brought me on to NASCAR at NBC as a tech manager at the beginning of 2025 and then recommended me to the VP of Engineering and Technology at NBC for the Super Bowl role."

Matt currently works as Director of Remote Technical Operations for USA Sports. He brings more than 20 years of experience working in live TV production, graphic design, video production and post production.

Sarah works as professor of media communication at Asbury University. She joined the faculty of Asbury University in 2013 after 10 years of traveling the world as a documentary filmmaker. Sarah currently teaches both undergrad and graduate versions of Cinematography; Underwater Cinematography; Documentary Filmmaking; Editing; Film Aesthetics; and Faith Media and Calling. Sarah has shot seven feature films, countless documentaries and various other forms of media, winning various awards including nominations for several Emmys.



TRUSTEE TO SERVE AS WORLD GOSPEL MISSION PRESIDENT

World Gospel Mission (WGM) recently elected **John Rinehimer '01** as their next president. Rinehimer will begin serving as President July 1, 2026. Rinehimer previously served as Vice

President of International Ministries and Mobilization at WGM, as a pastor at Southeast Christian Church, and as a missionary/church planter for WGM. Rinehimer was appointed to the Asbury Board of Trustees in 2024.

COLTON BACK '20 NAMED DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS



Asbury University named **Colton Back '20** as its new director of Strategic Communications. Back brings a strong background in athletics communications, athletics recruiting and marketing, along with a personal connection to Asbury as both an undergraduate and graduate alumnus. Back is originally from Russell Springs,

Kentucky. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in sport management in 2020 and received an MBA in nonprofit management from Asbury University in 2022.

"Colton is a committed and dynamic leader on this campus. He has served this University with excellence and a servant's heart. We are fortunate to have Colton leading the Strategic Communications team," said Dr. Kevin Brown, president of Asbury University.

In his previous role with TeamAU, Back was instrumental in building the Asbury Sports Digital Network (ASDN), which livestreams more than 100 on-campus events each year.

ALUMNI BOARD



The Asbury University Alumni Board serves as ambassadors of our institution and as a sounding board between Asbury University and the alumni community. The 2025-26 Alumni Board is pictured here.

Back row, left to right: Carlton Beall '01, Chad Nagel '99, Bert Jones '89, Todd Swathwood '86, Zach Bennett '13, Ryan Phillips '02, CD Morton '92, Ben Arnold '04, Nesbert Vaval '16, Neil Brenner '93, Jerry Liu '25, Corey Winton '04, Jorge Castorena '18. **Front Row, left to right:** Milcah Cobb '19, Julia Kathe '94 Lasoi, Meredith Schellin '15 Turton, Emily Brockinton '04 Mullins, Lisa Gaulden '87 Barber, Renee Blair '95 Riffell, Alida Osterlin '99, Laura Hudson '86 Patterson, Mary Rohrer '08, Kaitrin Bolling '26, Koby Miller '76, Taylor Bobb '12 Collingsworth. **Not pictured:** Heidi Raass '97 Spencer, Willa Ling '76 Brockinton, Ted Morris '80



SCHELLIN '15 TURTON SERVES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

In March, Asbury University hosted **Meredith Schellin '15 Turton**, who currently serves as Digital Director for the Speaker of the House in Washington, D.C. During Chapel, Turton shared about her faith journey and encouraged students to consider how their time at Asbury can shape both their identity and their calling.

Before working for the Office of the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Turton worked on 36 gubernatorial campaigns, presidential races, and dozens of House and Senate campaigns nationwide. She has also served in both Senate and House leadership offices, helping shape digital communications and creative direction at the highest levels of government.

Turton graduated with a degree in Journalism and Digital Storytelling. During her time on campus, she was actively involved in student government, cheerleading, and *The Collegian*, Asbury's student newspaper, and as an Asbury Ambassador: experiences that helped her grow as both a communicator and a leader.

More importantly, Turton's time at Asbury played a significant role in shaping the foundation of her faith. Through Chapel, professors, and her community, she developed a deeper relationship with Jesus that continues to guide her today.

In the fast-paced and often high-pressure environment of Washington, D.C., Turton shared that it is this faith that keeps her grounded. The formation she experienced at Asbury continues to influence how she leads, communicates, and navigates the responsibilities of her role.



Meredith Schellin '15 Turton took a photo of the Olympic gold medal winning hockey team with the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.





Partnerships and Shared Values

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” Philippians 2:1-4.

As I reflect on the importance of innovative and forward-thinking partnerships, I’m drawn to this passage from Philippians. Paul’s call to consider the “interests of others” beautifully mirrors the spirit of collaboration that defines our work at Asbury. What a privilege it is to lead a team and be part of a university so deeply committed to partnering with people, foundations, and ministries who share a vision for advancing the cause of Christ around the world.

We strive to make intentional decisions and to resource creatively so that we may grow, strengthen our programs, develop outstanding facilities, and model excellence in unity and purpose. Yet, to pursue these goals without regard for “the interests of others” would be short-sighted.

That’s why I’m grateful for the growing number of donor-centered and partner-minded conversations taking place. God continues to bless these efforts as we work to meet the needs of both Asbury and our friends who share our values and calling.

There are so many faithful people, churches, foundations, businesses, and institutions whose missions align with our own. This offers an opportunity for us to join hands with them, with like-mindedness, humility, and a shared calling so that we may experience the deep joy Paul describes.

Thank you for being Philippians people. In these uncertain times, may we continue to joyfully pursue the work God has entrusted to each of us.



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

THE 2026 REUNION GIFT PROJECT:

Spotlight On Hughes

Hughes Auditorium has been a sacred gathering place at Asbury University since 1929, offering nearly a century of life-changing encounters with God. From weekly Chapel services to Commencement ceremonies to historic revivals, Hughes has been the very heart of spiritual life on campus. In its well-worn seats, tens of thousands of students, faculty, staff, and guests have listened, prayed, wept, rejoiced and responded to the Spirit of God, leaving forever changed.

The 2026 Reunion Gift Project will focus on renewing the seats in Hughes Auditorium. To maintain the historic nature of Hughes, the metal frames will remain. Each wooden seat, arms, and seat back replacement will be carefully crafted by hand, reflecting the care and intention with which Hughes was first built. Asbury’s goal for this year’s Reunion is ambitious: raise the full amount needed to renew every seat in the auditorium.

asbury.edu/reunion-gift-project



1970

Sharon Martin '70 McGuire has revised the autobiography, "From the Orphanage to the Parsonage." Fellow classmate **Darius Salter '70** wrote the forward of this revision. The book is available on Amazon.

Ken Banter '79 was recognized in Denver, Colo., with the Bob Harmon Service to Education Award from the National Association of Elementary and Secondary Education Act State Program Administrators. This award honors individuals who have made exceptional contributions to education and who have worked to ensure all students have access to fair, equitable, and high-quality education. **2**



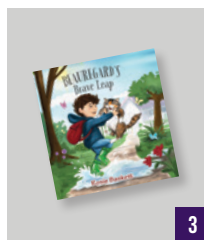
1

1990

Rob DeGeorge '93 and **Andy Miller, III '02** co-edited and published, "Seeking More Light: Essays in Salvation Army Thought Honoring R. David Rightmire." It is published by Teleios Press.



2



3

Daniel Tsukamoto '94 is the new organist for Pittsview Methodist Church in Pittsview, Ala.

Rosie Brawn '96 Baskett released her debut children's book, "Beauregard's Brave Leap" which received a Kirkus Star Review calling it "an ideal tale for anxious youngsters." The book shares the sweet story of a cat who learns to face his fears by using a self-calming technique and finding his bravery. **3**

James Fogal '96 completed a Ph.D. from the College of Education at Auburn University through the department of Curriculum and Teaching. James works as a financial planner in Auburn, Ala. He also serves as a Wing Chaplain with the Civil Air Patrol with the rank of Lt. Col. and is on the board of directors for Nurturing Change, a nonprofit organization.

DT Slouffman '97 produced his 18th Rose Bowl Parade for ABC.

Bryan Sallee '99 graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary with a Doctorate in Ministry in Organizational Leadership in May 2025.

2000

Brandon Tinsley '03 is a Texas Ranger for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Jared Lathem '03 published his first book, "The Sermon Killing Your Family." The book focuses on reestablishing the family altar and what it looks like for parents to start raising kids who are in love with Jesus.

Theresa Lieblang '06 completed her Ph.D. in the spring of 2025 in Biblical Studies Old Testament from Amridge University Turner School of Theology.

2010

Alisha Abner '13 Bynum is the Director of Communications for The Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Phillip '14 and **Hillary Fisher '14 Jackson** welcomed Rowan Fisher Jackson Sept. 20, 2025. Proud great-grandparents include **John '65** and **Jane Edgett '63 Scudder**. **1**



4



5

Berry '15 and **Anna Andrews '15 Houp** started their own mobile ambulatory veterinary practice based in Elizabeth, Colo., called Haven Veterinary Services. They treat horses, all manner of livestock as well as offer holistic medicine for small animals. It is a family affair as future Asburians Peter and Adeline also often come on calls. **4**

Tommy Otley '17 received the 2026 New Horizon Award from the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy.

Seth Padgett '19 is a captain in the United States Air Force and assigned to the 356th Flight Squadron at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. This comes after five moves with another taking him and his family to Florida. He just returned from his second deployment as a fighter pilot flying the F-35 "Panther." **5**

2020

Eswin Monroy '23 is the receptionist at CarmanFullerton, PLLC.



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

Ollie Jones '47 Lamb-Sanders, Athlete/Ministry, 2/9/2026, Chelsea, MI

Dolores Ammons '49, Education, 12/2/2025, McDonald, PA

Virginia McFarland '50 Starnes, Education/Ministry/Musician, 11/29/2025, Louisville, KY

Caroline Lacey '51 Butler, Education/Homemaker/Volunteer, 10/6/2025, Crothersville, IN

Sara Fuller '53 Munday, Author/Education/Manager/Ministry, 10/23/2025, Gulf Breeze, FL

Barbara Hughes '53 Smith, Education, 10/17/2025, Springville, AL

Dr. Dorothy Barbo MD '54, Medicine/Education/Former Asbury Trustee Board Member, 2/21/2026, Albuquerque, NM

Rev. Aubrey "Don" Hodges '54, Ministry, 10/18/2025, New Bern, NC

Rev. Willard Wilcox '54, Ministry, 1/3/2026, Greeneville, TN

Janet Hartman '55 Pollock, Education/Ministry, 1/2/2026, Evansville, IN

David Cobb '57, Education/Missions/Pilot/Sports Coach, 1/30/2026, Arab, AL

Phyllis Hail '57, Christian Education/Ministry Administration, 2/8/2026, Lexington, KY

Dr. Rhoda Evans '57 Taylor, Education, 11/16/2025, Sarasota, FL

Joanne Edwards '57 Damon White, Camp Office Administrator/Education, 10/27/2025, Zionsville, IN

Jean Kennerly '57 Wiggins, Education/Published Poet, 1/7/2026, Minneapolis, MN

Annelete Howard '58 Wright Kaeff, Elected School Board Member/Homemaker, 12/4/2025, Covington, KY

Diane Calvert '58 Nelson, Education, 11/30/2025, Mount Sterling, KY

Rev. George Roads '58, Education/Ministry, 12/18/2025, Dayton, OH

Jane Forrester '58 Wilson, Accounting/Social Work, 12/16/2025, Ewing, NJ

Sara Scameheorn '59 Hinkle, Accounting, 12/25/2025, Kansas City, MO

Rev. Paul Morton '60, Funeral Home Attendant/Ministry/Missions, 1/21/2026, Parkersburg, WV

John "Joe" Lineman '61, Business Owner/Former Asbury Board Member, 11/15/2025, Scottsdale, AZ and Northville, MI

Robert "Bob" Nulf Sr. '61, 12/5/2024, North Fort Myers, FL

Cherrill Sherman '62 Haver, Homemaker/Music Ministry, 12/7/2025, Holland, MI

Rev. Herman Rock '62, Education/Funeral Director/Law Enforcement/Ministry, 1/4/2026, Roswell, GA

Dorothy Partridge '62 Runyon, Education/Missions/Volunteer, 12/11/2025, Williamston, MI

Paul Minnich '63, Counselor/Elected Official/Education, 11/13/2025, York, PA

Dr. Walter "Walt" Shaw Ph.D. '63, Scientist/Business Owner, 2/14/2026, Vestavia, AL

Marilyn Algren '64 Gray, Education, 1/16/2026, Cary, NC

Linda Proudfoot '64 Hallbauer, Education, 11/9/2025, Novelty, OH

Carlos "Carl" Drennen Jr. '66, Business Owner/Inspector/Social Worker, 10/24/2025, Bradenton, FL

Adelia "Possie" Cochran '66 Raiford, Recovery Education and Ministry, 11/21/2025, Asheville, NC

Gilbert "Gil" Moegerle '67, Business Communications Consultant/Business Owner/Education, 9/19/2025, Redding, CA

Barbara Shommer '67, Christian Education/Dental Assistant, 12/31/2025, Newton Falls, OH

Mary Miller '68 Chapman, Business Owner, 1/13/2026, Nicholasville, KY

John Dickinson Sr. '68, Counselor/Ministry/Social Worker, 10/7/2025, Swedesboro, NJ

Paul Law '68, Missions, 2/6/2026, Congo, AFRICA

Dr. Francis Mills DMD '68, Dentistry/Volunteer, 1/14/2026, Hampton, SC

Rev. John Weller '68, Business Owner/Ministry, 12/7/2025, Homewood, IL

Gloria McConnell '69, Homemaker, 1/2/2026, Debarry, FL

Norris Moegerle '69, Business Owner/Veteran, 11/30/2025, Beaver Falls, PA

Judith Benson '70 Rawlings, Deputy Jailer/Education, 1/8/2026, Cynthiana, KY

Dr. John "Jack" Graham '71, Author/Business Owner/Journalist/Ministry, 1/7/2026, Greenville, OH

Rebecca "Becky" Collier '72 Hopper, Music Education/Musician, 11/2/2025, Greenfield, IN

Sheila Baxter '72 Vesper, Homemaker/Volunteer, 10/10/2025, Athens, AL

Daniel "Dan" Waits '72, Music Ministry/Musician, 10/23/2025, Blairsville, GA

Dr. Rebecca "Becky" '74 Glass, Education/Coach/Former Asbury Coach & Faculty, 12/13/2025, Clarksville, TN

Richard Davis '75, Carpentry/Farming/Ministry, 12/15/2025, Terre Haute, IN

Katherine Maitland '75 McGhan, Education, 10/10/2025, Fenton, MI

Eiko Kurata '77 Tashiro, Education/Ministry, 1/12/2026, Nicholasville, KY

Chaplain Raymond Tetrault '80, Ministry/Sports Coach, 1/19/2025, Kokomo, IN

Rev. Billy "Bill" Dotson '81, Education/Ministry, 12/8/2025, Harlem, GA

Rev. Dr. Scott Solether '81, Ministry, 12/13/2025, Evansville, IN

Helen "Lois" Covert '82, Equine Medicine/Former Asbury Staff, 5/9/2025, Tucker, GA

Scott Mertz '93, Utility Industry, 2/3/2026, Pataskala, OH

Wendy Johnson '94 Wilbur, Retired Asbury Clinic Nurse/Nursing, 1/16/2026, Nicholasville, KY

Christopher "Chris" Lawson '07, Worship Leader, 11/9/2025, Wooster, OH

Luke Allshouse '11, Electrician, 11/22/2025, Clarksville, TN

Wanda Ward Croto (APS Program), Dental Assistant/Veteran, 1/11/2026, Rossville, IN

Christine "Christy" Davis Schraw (Grad Program), Special Education, 10/21/2025, Lakeland, FL

Friends

Dolores Erskine Aelick, 9/5/2025, Seymour, IN

Robert "Bob" Alt, 1/14/2025, Lapeer, MI

Jane Pritchett Bailey, 8/25/2025, Wilmore, KY

Jimmie Burrus, 12/4/2025, Nicholasville, KY

Gilbert Crowell, 10/7/2025, Oregon City, OR

Joe Fletcher, 12/26/2025, Wilmore, KY

Margaret "Peggy" Mull Gates, 12/22/2025, Fairhope, AL

Robert Gates, 10/28/2025, Fairhope, AL

Carol Duvall Gilbert, 12/30/2025, Columbus, OH

Rev. Jeffrey Graham, 12/26/2025, Dixon, KY

Joan Cole Groce, 4/10/2025, Tiffin, OH

Rev. Daniel "Dan" Hair, 10/8/2025, Ames, IA

Shirley Armstrong Hamilton, 1/30/2026, Wilmore, KY

DeeAnne Friesen Henke, 10/20/2025, Wichita, KS

Christopher Jankoviak, 12/6/2025, Niles, MI

Rev. J. "Timothy" Jarrell, 10/20/2025, Waco, TX

Lory Basham Jones, 1/26/2026, Gettysburg, PA

Dr. Ralph Kester, Former Asbury Faculty, 1/3/2026, Wilmore, KY

Rev. Charles "Chuck" Kinsley, 12/3/2025, Colorado Springs, CO

Ruth Knapp Laufenburger, 1/17/2026, Nicholasville, KY

Deborah Lambert Ling, 4/17/2025, Columbus, OH

Carson Meredith, 11/15/2025, Louisville, KY

Rev. Herbert "Herb" Osborne, 1/10/2026, Lexington, KY

Lillias "Lil" Bidwell Prillaman, 10/18/2025, Marietta, GA

Richard "Rich" Raiford Sr., 1/28/2025, Asheville, NC

William "Bill" Savage Jr., 11/3/2024, Chesapeake, VA

Paul Sharian, 2/10/2026, Decatur, GA

Amy Thompson Shearer, 12/18/2025, Nicholasville, KY

Dr. Timothy Thomas, Retired Asbury Faculty and Staff, 12/23/2025, Wilmore, KY

Wanda Crain Vice, 1/4/2026, Lexington, KY

Scott Vowels, 12/7/2025, Louisville, KY

Rev. Robert Warren Sr., 10/25/2025, Opelika, AL

Robert "Joe" Webster, 12/9/2025, Bethesda, MD

Gillie "Gene" Young, Former President's Advisory Board Member, 8/21/2025, Lexington, KY

Photo Finish

“CROUCHING TIGER CHAPEL”

For more than 20 years, Rev. Dr. Steve DeNeff has been a beloved voice in Asbury’s Chapel, faithfully calling students deeper in their walk with Christ. In February, he delivered a powerful message urging students to remain committed to the altar and attentive to God’s calling. Affectionately nicknamed the “Crouching Tiger,” DeNeff continues to challenge and encourage with the same passion that has made him a campus favorite for two decades.

ASBURYGIVES CELEBRATES GENEROSITY

Asbury University’s community includes generous, Kingdom-focused givers who believe in this generation. We want to thank everyone who championed a program, fund, or initiative during AsburyGives 2026, raising more than \$350,000 from 377 donors. Your commitment to support our students makes a tremendous impact. Each gift helps educate, equip, and inspire students to Christ-centered excellence. Thank you for investing in our students!





ASBURY UNIVERSITY

Academic Excellence & Spiritual Vitality

1-800-888-1818 | One Macklem Drive | Wilmore, KY 40390
asbury.edu

CONTINUE THE
journey



YOUR JOURNEY CONTINUES WITH ASBURY GRADUATE STUDIES

- MSAC in Accounting
- MBA in Business Administration
- MAC in Communication
- MA in Digital Storytelling
- EDS in Education Specialist
- MA in Education
- MFA in Film and TV Production
- MA in Ministry Innovation
- MFA in Screenwriting
- MAT in Teaching
- MA in Instructional Design, Innovation, and Leadership

ASBURY.EDU/GRAD



ASBURY UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE STUDIES