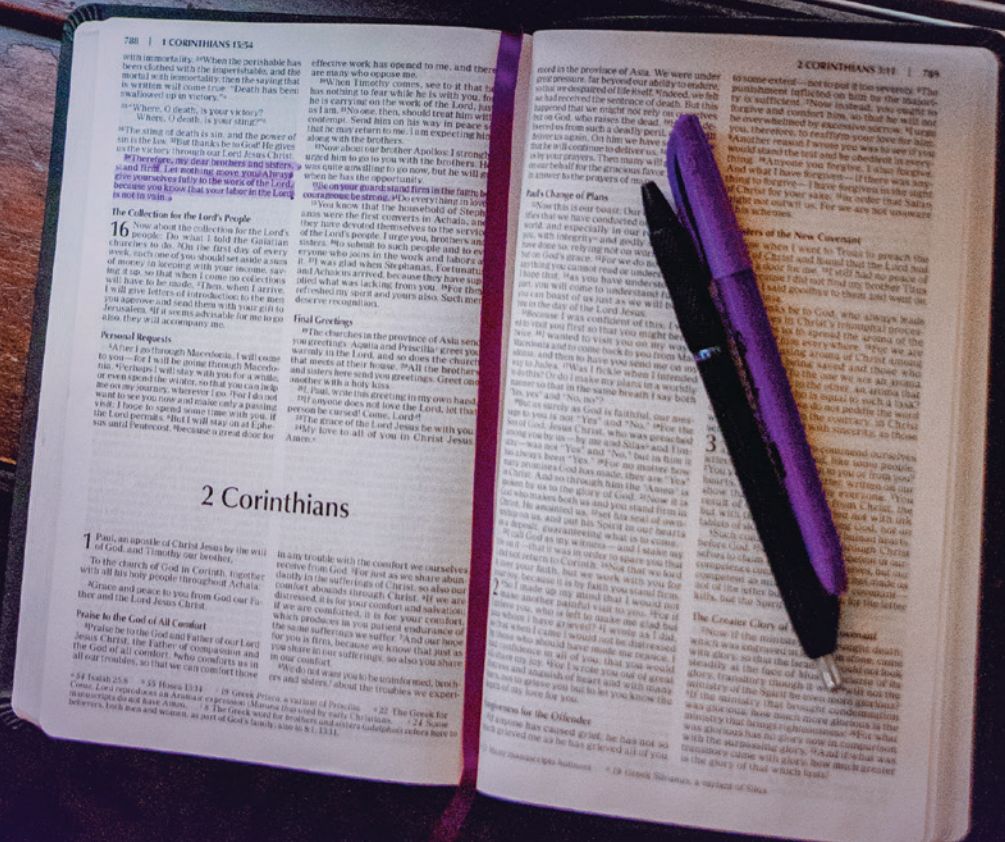


AMBASSADOR

ASBURY UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2026



Unwavering

UNWAVERING GOD. UNWAVERING PURPOSE.





1 We welcomed the Valiant Class of 2030 through Eagle Days, a special orientation experience for first-time freshmen designed to help students feel prepared and confident for the fall semester. **2** Led by Asbury professors Dr. Brian Shelton '89 and Dr. Daniel Strait, students traveled throughout Italy exploring theology, literature, art, and history across Rome, Assisi, Florence, and beyond. **3** SummitCamp 2026 welcomed 31 students, ages 15-19. They heard from world-class apologists Alycia Wood, Mike Sherrard, and Matthew Mittelberg, connected with peers and mentors, experienced daily worship, and enjoyed typical summer camp fun in the evenings! **4** ImpactU summer camps at Asbury give high school students a five-day, college-like experience, including all food, lodging, supplies, evening activities, and hands-on exploration of an academic area in the context of a Christian community. **5** For more than a decade, Youth Becoming Leaders has welcomed high school students who are devoted to Christ, hold leadership positions in their communities, and excel academically to a 10-day immersive educational experience on campus. **6** Asbury participated in the Central Kentucky All-Comers Series inaugural track meets on June 23 and July 7, inviting community members to compete in 50m, 100m, 400m, and 1600m races, as well as turbo javelin and long jump. All ages and all skill levels were encouraged to participate. **7** Meaningful conversations and unforgettable moments marked May's Set Apart Retreat to Colorado Springs, Colo. **8** Dr. Paul Nesselroade '89 led a travel course through Germany and Poland to examine the relationship between the ideas, imagery, and personalities found within the social and life sciences with the concept of inherent human dignity. **9** More than 500 student-athletes from across the country competed at Asbury's new Gray Outdoor Venue, May 6-8, during the 2026 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field National Championships. **10** Senior Chapel recognizes honorary faculty members and distinguished class members.



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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COVER PHOTO: CAROLINE ABSHER '24 PRESTON



Unwavering in a Changing World

The French philosopher and Christ-follower Simone Weil once observed, "To be always relevant, you have to say things which are eternal."

It is a memorable claim, especially in a cultural moment obsessed with staying current. Today, achieving relevance assumes constant adaptation, perpetual reinvention, and an endless pursuit of what is new and novel. But Weil suggests something different. Eternal things are always relevant because they do not expire. They endure.

And given our dizzying speed of change, if there were ever a moment to consider what endures, that moment is now.

Professionally, students today are preparing to inhabit a marketplace with occupations that do not yet exist. Artificial intelligence "learns" at an exponential rate. Information is abundant and instantly accessible. The rate of change is, itself, changing. In a moment of flux, Asbury is all the more committed to characteristics of Christian education that are anchored, enduring, and eternal.

Consider the sensibilities and capacities employers are increasingly prioritizing as necessary in the modern workforce: critical thinking, communication, problem solving, prudential judgment, collaboration, and service. These are not simply "essential skills" — they are enduring skills. While I do not know what future decades will hold, I am confident that thoughtful, wise, and trustworthy men and women will remain essential.

The same can be said of virtue.

As our technological capacities increase, moral formation does not become obsolete. Just the opposite. It becomes indispensable. The skills we cultivate and refine are often morally neutral. It is the application of skill that matters — carrying out our work in holy, God-honoring ways. Virtue, after all, is not merely knowing what is good. It is desiring the good and possessing the capacity to fulfill it. A virtuous person is perpetually relevant.

And perhaps most enduring of all are the questions that continue to surface throughout human history. What does it mean to be a self? What is a good person? What constitutes a good life? What is just society? How shall we then live?

Artificial intelligence may transform how we work, but it cannot answer why we exist and what we should do. Technological sophistication can never fully substitute wisdom, and information cannot replace meaning.

This conviction has shaped Asbury University from its beginning. For more than a century, Asbury has sought to educate students not merely for the navigation of dynamic economic conditions, but for a life of faith and service to the professions, our communities, the church, and the family.

Certainly, we want graduates prepared for meaningful work — equipped with the knowledge and competencies necessary to flourish professionally. Indeed, 99% of Asbury University's 2025 traditional undergraduate graduates were working or continuing their education through graduate school, fellowships, or internships within six months of graduation. But Asbury's vision is not limited to professional relevance alone.

“Amid a future that is fast, dynamic, and often unpredictable, Asbury continues to concern itself with enduring things: intellectual formation, moral character, virtuous living, meaningful vocation, and the timeless claims of Jesus Christ.”

To this last point, Christian education is as much about rightly ordered love as it is intellectual growth or skill development. "As someone has said, 'Education has given spokes to the wheel, but no hub,'" wrote Asbury alumnus E. Stanley Jones 1907. "It has given nothing that binds life into central meaning and integration. At the end of a college course, the real question is not what you know, but what you love."

The world is changing. We inhabit a dynamic moment. But truth, goodness, beauty, virtue, and the call to love God and neighbor remain. These are not relics from the past. They are realities that endure. And because they endure, they remain — as Weil understood — ever relevant.



Kevin J. Brown
Kevin J. Brown, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT



REUNION 2026

A Weekend to Remember

What a remarkable weekend we recently shared at Asbury University during Reunion 2026. Even though the weather challenged us, we were not overcome. Alumni, family, and friends returned to campus from across the country and around the world to celebrate cherished memories, reconnect with lifelong friends, and experience the vibrant work God continues to do at Asbury.

The theme of Reunion 2026, UNWAVERING, was drawn from Romans 4:20-21 (NLT), "Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this, he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God can do whatever He promises."

Not only was Abraham unwavering, he was fully convinced that God would fulfill His promises. Abraham's unwavering faith while waiting for a promise to be fulfilled came from his understanding of God's holy character and from a personal testimony of His unfailing provision. In the face of our challenges, let's keep hoping, growing, standing, and glorifying God. **Uncertain times require an unshakeable faith in an unwavering God.** It is our prayer that Reunion 2026 was a reminder of His promises, His provision and His unfailing love for you, His children.

Throughout the weekend, the campus came alive with laughter, storytelling, warm embraces, and a deep sense of the Holy Spirit. Classmates who had not seen one another for years picked up conversations as if no time had passed. Whether gathering over meals, strolling familiar pathways, or attending Class celebrations, alumni were reminded once again that the relationships formed at Asbury are among life's greatest gifts.

One of the most meaningful moments of the weekend was our beloved Hymn Sing. Voices from multiple generations joined together in worship, filling Hughes Auditorium with songs that have shaped the faith journeys of countless Asburians. It was a beautiful reminder that while much has changed through the years, our shared commitment to Christ remains steadfast.

Continued on page 6





Reunion Quick Facts

ATTENDANCE & COMMUNITY

1,200 attendees

34 states represented

7+ countries represented

103 participated in the Youth Program

7,391 miles traveled by the furthest attendee – **Christel Brabon '01** (UAE)

128 alumni interested in the Travel Program

REUNION MILESTONES & HONORS

21 inaugural medical missionaries honored

65 women attended the Hadassah Tea

Largest banner-year reunion Class by attendees: **1976 Pioneers** (100) and the **2001 Redeemed** (70)

Most senior alumnus: **Joe Daws '49**

Celebrated a 70th Class Reunion: **Ken Ashitomi '56**

HYMN SING HIGHLIGHTS

1,400+ average livestream camera shots

1,000 smiles from Mark Schell

100 times Bert was told **not** to change the Hymn Sing

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS

750 cups of frozen yogurt served

648 bottles of Ale-8

1,880 bottles of water

24 pounds of mints

REUNION BY THE NUMBERS

Nearly 200 AU team members, volunteers, class leaders, Reunion Ambassadors, youth program leaders, Alumni Board members, and program participants

50+ events throughout the weekend

460 seats sponsored in Hughes Auditorium from the Reunion Gift Project

1 shelter-in-place alert during Reunion due to severe weather.



Continued from page 4

Guests also enjoyed seeing the exciting progress taking place across campus. From facility improvements to new initiatives that are strengthening the student experience, alumni witnessed firsthand how Asbury continues to prepare students for lives of service and leadership.

A special highlight of Reunion 2026 was the beautiful investment in funding improvements in Hughes Auditorium. Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, more than \$230,000 was raised towards renewing the seats in this sacred and historic space where generations have worshiped, learned, and encountered God. We are deeply grateful for every gift that made this milestone possible.

If you would still like to participate in this important project, gifts can be made online at asbury.edu/reunion-gift or by contacting the Office of Advancement at (859) 858-5136. A gift of \$500 sponsors the renewal of a seat.

As we celebrate the success of Reunion 2026, we are already looking forward to next year. Mark your calendars now for Reunion 2027, taking place June 25-27, 2027. We will celebrate Classes ending in 2s and 7s. We can't wait to be with you again next year!



Rev. Bert Jones '89
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI & CHURCH RELATIONS

“We are headed back to where God has assigned us in this season, refreshed and renewed! Reunion is so, so good for our souls! For our four years at Asbury, we get to live in intentional community pursuing academic excellence and spiritual vitality, spur one another on to love and serve our God more, grow in surrender and obedience to our good and merciful Father, and become more equipped for the assignments He gives us for His Kingdom purposes.”

“Reunion brings us back together to worship, to encourage, to sharpen each other, to laugh, to cry, to rejoice together, to bear one another's burdens, to remember, and to dream. We leave re-energized and once again ready to continue walking in obedience to our God, remembering we are not alone. We are made for community. What a gift to cheer one another on in God's calling on our lives. THANK YOU for ministering to servants of the most high God who have the privilege of serving Him all over the world, and had the indescribable gift of pursuing Him at Asbury. Words can never fully describe the gift that Asbury is. This Asburian's heart, soul, and spirit are so very grateful.”

Betsy Lynn Hall '01 Ledoux





Class Hymns: An Unwavering Tradition

Each June in Hughes Auditorium, more than a thousand voices join in song, with lyrics cascading over all who are present or listening online. Since 2015, the Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing during Reunion weekend is more than an event; it is a corporate expression of our history, our faith and our community.

Before the first notes of “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ring out, there is a hum of excitement and expectation. Alumni, family members, and friends, representing nearly a century of Asbury life, fill the auditorium. From new babies to seasoned saints in their nineties, the generations gather, each voice distinct, yet woven into a single tapestry of praise. It is beautiful.

Dr. Mark Schell '87, chair of Asbury's Music department, guides the congregation through a selection of hymns, including banner-year Class hymns, inviting all to fully participate in this gift of worship. Dr. Schell's steadfast presence and contagious joy have shaped the hymn sing into a cherished tradition.

“The annual Alumni Reunion Hymn Sing is certainly a unique experience in this day and age,” said Schell. “As far as I know, Asbury University is the only university that has a Class hymn tradition, which plants the seeds for this very special event. The connection and love that each Class feels for its Class hymn, combined with a large group of alums that truly enjoy getting together and singing hymns, results in an experience that is exhilarating, inspirational, and one-of-a-kind. The combination of singing songs that have survived the passage of time, a group of people that truly believe the words they are singing, and a special place where God has genuinely impacted people (Hughes Auditorium), results in a moment that must be personally experienced to be truly understood.”

This tradition of choosing Class hymns, which began in 1945, is a rich heritage at Asbury. As each banner-year Class hymn is announced, alumni from those Classes stand together on the first verse, a visible testimony to a shared history and enduring connection. For a moment, time folds in on itself. College days long past seem near again, friendships formed decades earlier are rekindled, and commitments made to God are remembered in melody.

There is a sacred simplicity to the evening — just voices lifted together singing truths that have impacted generations. The familiar hymns become bridges across time linking past to present, student to graduate, memory to God's goodness and His unwavering faithfulness.

For many, the Hymn Sing is the heartbeat of Reunion weekend. It is where music brings unity and beauty as worship, offering something rare: a chance to be still, to belong, and to join a chorus that has been echoing for generations.

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise...



Class Photos



1 Celebrating the 1956 Eagles and the 1961 Pioneers. **2** The Pioneer Class of 1976 celebrated their 50th Reunion. **3** Dawn Treader Class of 1991 **4** Fearless Class of 2011 **5** Redeemed Class of 2001: the Redeemed of the Lord say SO!



Pictured left to right: Dr. Kevin J. Brown, Jim Fuller '71, Christel Brabon '01, Savannah Nisbett '11 Landerholm, David Hoag '86, Bob Wiley '61, and Larry Brown '81

Asbury University Announces 2026 Alumni Awards

9

CELEBRATING ASBURY ALUMNI WHO SERVE CHRIST WITH UNWAVERING FAITH AND GLOBAL IMPACT

Asbury University alumni continue to make a remarkable impact across the globe: leading, serving, and innovating with faith that remains steadfast in every season. This year's Alumni Award recipients embody that legacy, demonstrating how a Christ-centered education can shape lives of extraordinary influence and service.

The 2026 "A Award" and Distinguished Young Alum recipients reflect decades of faithful leadership in healthcare, education, and ministry.

Dr. Christel Brabon '01 has lived out her calling in some of the world's most challenging medical contexts. As department head of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Oasis Hospital in the United Arab Emirates, Brabon ministers to patients from more than 160 nations, quietly advancing the Kingdom through compassionate care and daily faithfulness.

Dr. David Hoag '86 has devoted nearly three decades to Christian higher education. In his current role as president of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), which oversees more than 185 institutions, Hoag leads with a clear commitment to Christ and the mission of Christian education. His faith-filled leadership influences the academic and spiritual journeys of thousands of students worldwide.

Dr. Jim Fuller '71 has faithfully invested in the next generation through counseling, teaching, and leadership.

With years of service spanning Honduras, Korea, and the United States, Fuller has dedicated his life to helping others discern their callings and grow in self-awareness, integrating faith and psychological insight to equip students to serve with competence and compassion.

The Distinguished Young Alumni Award honors **Dr. Savannah Nisbett '11 Landerholm**, whose work in higher education and publishing amplifies important conversations around leadership and equity. As the first graduate of Baylor University's Ph.D. program in Higher Education Studies and Leadership, she has already made significant scholarly contributions. These highlight the experiences of women in leadership, and reflect both intellectual rigor and a deep commitment to meaningful change rooted in faith and vocation.

The Volunteer of the Year is **Dr. Bob Wiley '61**, whose lifetime of service to Asbury University is as remarkable in terms of length as it is in depth. Wiley served on the Board of Trustees from 1981 to 2022. He is currently spearheading the development of the Medical Missions Wall which honors those who have used medicine for ministry overseas. It is located in the Shaw Collaborative Learning Center.

More Reunion photos, highlights and the livestreamed programs can be found at asbury.edu/reunion

Unwavering



WELCOME VALIANT CLASS OF 2030

Asbury welcomes incoming students through one of the University's most distinctive and enduring traditions: Class identity. The Valiant Class of 2030 joins a century-long legacy of students united by identity, purpose, and commitment to Christ-centered community.



The Valiant Class draws its identity from Hebrews 12, a chapter that calls followers of Jesus to perseverance, faithfulness, and unwavering focus on God, with particular emphasis on verses 1-3: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of

witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith..."

Leading the Valiant Class are class advisors Paul and Kelly Stephens and class sponsors **Julianne Knox '27** and **Kyle Wood '27**.

You can write a message of encouragement to an incoming freshman by visiting asbury.edu/give/welcome-freshmen. It will be printed and delivered to a Valiant Class member during Welcome Week this fall.

IT'S A WRAP: CELEBRATING THE 22ND HIGHBRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL

On April 18, students, faculty, and guests gathered in Hughes Auditorium for the 22nd annual Highbridge Film Festival showcase, celebrating student creativity and storytelling through film. This Asbury event featured a screening of the official film selections, chosen from dozens of student submissions across high school, undergraduate, and graduate levels.

Films were judged by industry professionals in categories including: Best Actor in a Drama, **Jayden McMinn '27**; Best Actor in a Comedy, **Sam Webb '28**; Best Actress, **Joslyn Jaeger '27**; Best Cinematography, **Ella Liu '27**; Best Editing, **Sam Edgar '26** and **Will Tang '26**; Best Sound Design, **Davis Brown '26**, and more. The Audience Choice Award was "Eggspedition" by **David Campbell '28**.

This year's judges included storyboard artist and second-unit director David Negron Jr. ("National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," "National Treasure"); actor-producer Michelle Jubilee Gonzales ("Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," "Christmas North of Nashville"); and screenwriter-producer James Krieg ("What's New, Scooby-Doo?," "Spooksville"). The judges also hosted seminars and panels on Friday, offering students insight into the entertainment industry and opportunities for one-on-one conversations. **3**

ASBURY UNIVERSITY THEATRE PERFORMS "JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT"

Theatre major, **Rebekah Askey '26**, directed the theatre program's production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, this show puts a musical twist on the Old Testament story of Joseph from the book of Genesis. The show ran from April 10-18 in the Greathouse Theatre in Asbury's Miller Center for Communication Arts. **4**

LAUNCHING THE STUDENT NO-DEBT FUND

Faculty, staff, donors, and student recipients gathered on April 30 to celebrate the inaugural distribution of more than \$270,000 in grants through the Student No-Debt Fund initiative. Through this program, selected students within the Dayton School of Business graduated with their college debt fully paid — an important step by the University toward greater affordability and long-term student success. Eligible students apply by meeting academic, co-curricular, mentorship, and philanthropic requirements designed to strengthen both their biblical worldview and financial literacy. Plans are in place to expand the initiative to students across all majors in the future. **1**

FOUR STUDENT LEADERS RECEIVE ROY L. LAUTER SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Four students received the 2026 Roy L. Lauter Servant Leadership Award, recognizing their commitment to serving others through leadership, ministry, and community impact. Named after longtime professor **Dr. Roy L. Lauter '64**, whose 34 years at Asbury reflected a life of faithful service, the award celebrates students who embody Christ-centered leadership both on and off campus.

This year's recipients demonstrated a deep commitment to serving their communities through missions, mentorship, worship, outreach and student leadership: **Angel Oquendo '27**, **Ellie Parris '26**, **Samantha Clarkson '27**, and **Emily Sizemore '27**. **6**

RESTORED CLASS OF 2026 COMMENCEMENT

The Restored Class of 2026 celebrated Commencement on Saturday, May 2 at the Luce Center in Wilmore, Ky. Approximately 400 undergraduate, graduate, and online students crossed the stage in front of family, friends, faculty, and staff, marking the culmination of their academic journeys at Asbury. AU hosted the ceremonies as part of a full weekend of events honoring graduates, including the Baccalaureate service and final campus gatherings. **2**

This year's Commencement featured speakers **Dr. Billy Coppedge '02** and **Joanna Neff '03 Coppedge**, missionaries based in Scotland. Drawing from their global ministry experience, they encouraged graduates to remain attentive to God's calling and to engage the world with faithfulness and creativity. Their message resonated with graduates preparing to enter diverse vocations, reminding them that their education equips them not only for careers but for lives of service and impact.

LAUNCHING WELL YOUNG ALUM RETREAT

The Alumni team welcomed recent graduates (up to five years out) to Ridgecrest, N.C., for its Launching Well retreat, a weekend designed to help young alumni pause, reflect, and move forward with intention. Made possible by the T.W. Lewis Foundation, the retreat brought the hallmarks of the Asbury experience — community, formation, and faithful Christian living — into post-graduation life. Demonstrating Asbury's commitment to care after commencement, alumni engaged topics such as stewardship, calling, and sustaining a resilient, Christ-centered faith. The next retreat will be held in October with the application opening in August. **5**

Find out more at:
asbury.edu/launching-well

ASBURY FRESHMEN TO SOPHOMORE RETENTION RATES BEAT NATIONAL AVERAGES

Over the last five years, Asbury has achieved a retention rate of 83% or higher for first-time students in the traditional undergraduate program. Our highest retention rates were in 2006 at 87.3% and in 2024 at 85%. The national average is 69.5%, and the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities' average is 72.1%. Not only are students choosing Asbury, but they are also choosing to stay.



1



2



3



4



5



6



STRAIT NAMED LILLY NETWORK LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FELLOW

Dr. Daniel H. Strait, professor of English and dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, was chosen to participate in the Lilly Network Leadership Institute. This two-year program brings together a select cohort of educators to investigate the principles and practices needed to navigate the unique challenges facing Christian universities today. Strait will build a trusted community of colleagues, with one-on-one mentorships that provide guidance and support.

SCREENWRITING PROFESSOR WRITES DUCK DYNASTY FILM



Assistant Professor of Screenwriting and Creative Writing **Andrea Gyertson '95 Nasfell** served as the screenwriter for "Faith & Forgiveness: A Duck Dynasty Love Story," a movie about Al and Lisa Robertson. Nasfell also wrote an episode of the upcoming "Adventures in Odyssey" animated series to be released at the end of the year. Senior **Sabina Boyer '27** will write an episode for the second season.

ASBURY HOSTS 11TH ANNUAL SEARCH RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The annual SEARCH Symposium was held on April 9 and celebrated student research across academic disciplines. The Symposium provides a dynamic forum for students to share their academic passions, engage in meaningful dialogue through presentations, and highlight innovative ideas within the liberal arts.

Marissa Yost '26 was awarded first place (\$1,000 award) for her research project with faculty sponsor Dr. Marcus Kilian: "Attachment to God in Adoptees: Proposing Attachment Theory as a Bridge Framework."

Sarah Bruns '27 earned second place (\$500 award) for her research project with faculty sponsor Dr. Jonathan Rutledge: "Loving Into Damnation: a Puzzle of Desire in the Thomistic Love Model."

Emma Brown '26 earned third place (\$500 prize) for her research project with faculty sponsor Dr. Bruce Branan: "Evaluation of Pesticide Residues Using Magicada Septendecim Samples in Wilmore, KY."

COMMUNICATION PROFESSOR DR. ELIZABETH JONES RECEIVES 2026 EWBANK AWARD

Dr. Elizabeth Jones was named the 2026 recipient of the Frances White Ewbank Excellence in Teaching Award, celebrating her outstanding commitment to student learning, faith integration, and Christ-like leadership. Each year, graduating seniors nominate faculty for this honor, selecting professors who demonstrate both exceptional teaching and meaningful spiritual influence in students' lives.

TO STAY UP TO DATE ON ASBURY, VISIT [ASBURY.EDU/NEWS](https://www.asbury.edu/news).



PENISTON HONORS COMPETITION AWARDEES

The annual Peniston Honors Competition in Jameson Recital Hall included awards to the following students:

COMPOSITION	Abigail Tingle '27
INSTRUMENTAL	Nathaniel Smith '27, clarinet
KEYBOARD	Bramwell Carr '28, piano
VOCAL	Donovan Chung '26, tenor

Semi-finalists included: **Jessica Edwards '28**, horn (instrumental), **Emily Reed '28**, piano (keyboard), and **Gentry Osbourn '27**, mezzo-soprano (vocal).

Lindsey Melhorn '26 also received the 2026 Asbury Senior Music Scholar Award for Musicianship, Scholarship, and Leadership.

CELEBRATING FACULTY BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Asbury hosted a reception celebrating the recent publications by ten University professors. The featured books represent a wide range of disciplines and interests. Among them were:

Dr. Rebecca Briley	"Boasts Against the Current: A Retelling of F. Scott Fitzgerald's <i>The Great Gatsby</i> "
Dr. Laura Dryjanska	"Human Trafficking in the Artificial Intelligence Era"
Dr. Paul Nesselrode '89	"Essentials of Behavioral and Social Science Statistics"
Dr. Allen Rivas Prado	"Flamenco, Tango, and Folklore: Transatlantic Progressivism in Seven Musicals by Carlos Saura"
Dr. Thane Ury '80	"Random Neural Firings of a Wayfaring Missionary Kid"

PROFESSOR RECEIVES GRANT FROM GREAT MEADOW FOUNDATION

Professor and Department Chair of Art & Design Margaret Park Smith recently received an Artist Professional Development Grant from the Great Meadow Foundation, enabling Smith to travel to London to examine several specific contemporary art exhibitions prior to a 3-week art residency in Skopelos, Greece.

GASSMANN AND DUT ALL-AMERICANS AT NCAA NATIONALS

Asbury women's track and field athlete **Bailey Gassman '27**, a social work and adventure education & leadership major, earned national champion honors at the National Christian College Athletics Association (NCCAA) Outdoor Track and Field National Championships. Men's sophomore pre-nursing major **Manny Dut** claimed second-place all-American honors at the championships that were hosted by Asbury in May.

Gassmann made program history in the 1500 meters, becoming the first Asbury outdoor track & field national champion with her victory in the event. She previously claimed the 2025 indoor national title in the mile run. **1**

Dut continued his historic season with a second-place finish in the 400 meters, crossing the line in 48.49 seconds to break his own school record by one-hundredth of a second. **2**



1



2

WHITWORTH AND ANDREWS IN NEW ROLES

After eight impactful years leading the growth and vision of AU's Athletics, **Mark Whitworth '84** transitioned to the new role of senior vice president for strategic initiatives and chief of staff, while **Ben Andrews '06** was promoted from associate athletics director to director of athletics.

Whitworth faithfully served as vice president for athletics and university communications and, more recently, guided important facility enhancements, including the construction of the Gray Outdoor Venue. He also played a key role in Asbury's historic transition to NCAA Division III and the Collegiate Conference of the South.

Since June 2019, Andrews has served as associate athletics director and has been a part of the men's soccer program since 2006, becoming the head coach in 2010. He has extensive experience in facilities management and was instrumental in AU's transition to NCAA Division III, leading the membership application process. In 2022, Andrews became Asbury's NCAA compliance coordinator, responsible for educating TeamAU staff and monitoring the institution's compliance with NCAA guidelines. That position is now filled by Head Swimming Coach **Graham Duncan '16**.

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**

STUDENT-ATHLETE PROFILE: **Ben Moore '27** *Accounting & Finance Major*

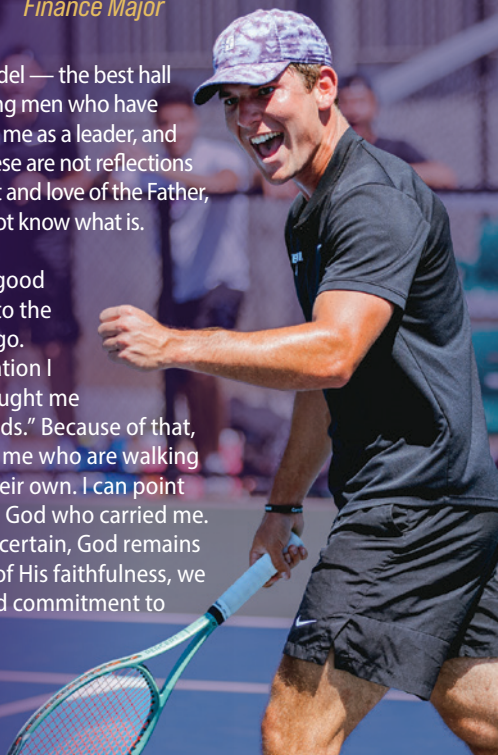
Unwavering means more than simply remaining unshaken, it means having a steadfast, resolute, and firm commitment to God. In my story, the word "unwavering" brings clarity to the mosaic of His work in my life.

A few years before coming to Asbury, I experienced the loss of my father to tonsil cancer. It was a moment that could have easily torn my faith to pieces, instead, it became a place where I began to see God's unwavering love more clearly. I was seventeen and carrying the deep pain of loss. I was surrounded by the steadfast faith, dedication, and care of the Christian community around me. Many showed up in ways I will never forget. If you know me at all, you know I am deeply shaped by people. God knew that, too. He knew community would be one of the ways He would bring healing and draw me closer to Him.

To this day, this unwavering blessing of community has continued through Asbury. I have mentors who speak truth in love; friends and teammates who make a point

of celebrating my birthday; Citadel — the best hall on campus — is filled with young men who have challenged my faith, developed me as a leader, and filled my life with laughter. If these are not reflections of the unwavering commitment and love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, then I do not know what is.

A friend's question about my good attitude made me think back to the loss I experienced five years ago. That season gave me a foundation I continually point back to. It taught me to say, "Truly, it is all in His hands." Because of that, I can encourage those around me who are walking through difficult seasons of their own. I can point them to the same unwavering God who carried me. Even when life is painful or uncertain, God remains steadfast toward us. Because of His faithfulness, we can have unwavering trust and commitment to Him, choosing what is right over what is easy every time.





UNWAVERING SUPPORT, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND PRAYER

It is with gratitude and awe that I reflect on how God continues to bless this place through faithful people who pray for us, encourage our students, and offer great advice. It is a joy to connect with individuals around the world who hold a deep affinity for what we represent and a genuine affection for Asbury.

In a recent conversation, one of our alums shared how much Asbury has meant to them and to generations of their family. I later discovered that this individual has supported Asbury for 50 consecutive years — not only through generous financial gifts, but also through steadfast prayer, encouragement, and service. What a powerful testimony of faithful partnership.

At the same time, we are continually encouraged by the growing number of “new friends” who are taking notice of Asbury. Many are drawn to a Christ-centered community that remains committed to biblical fidelity while seeking to grow, improve, and lead with purpose.

As we look ahead in what can often feel like an unpredictable time, I am reminded of Paul’s challenge in I Corinthians 16: “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.”

With the unwavering support of our Heavenly Father and the faithful partnership of our extended community, the future of Asbury is bright! Thank you for being part of this journey.



Dr. Mark Troyer
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT
& STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

EXPANDING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, A DONOR'S STORY



Distinguished microbiologist **Dr. Carl B. Fliermans '66** devoted his career to advancing the understanding of microbial ecology and was the first to isolate the bacterium that causes Legionnaires' Disease. His groundbreaking research has influenced global scientific practices and saved countless lives.

Recently, Carl donated lab equipment to the Shaw School of Sciences, including two sophisticated microscopes, a centrifuge, a biosafety hood, and a shaking incubator for growing and maintaining microorganisms. These gifts and other items are essential for studying, processing, and analyzing microbial and other biological samples at the cellular and molecular levels.

“With these new additions,” **Dr. Andrea Dunlap '18 Keller**, assistant professor of biology explains, “I was able to make curriculum changes to my microbiology, cell & molecular biology, and biochemistry lab courses in order to better introduce students to techniques common in current scientific research. I can move towards more discovery-based, inquiry-driven research experiences, simply because we have more tools and techniques available for analyzing a variety of samples.

“The equipment is also routinely utilized by my own research students and has helped expand my options for generating new data as part of authentic scientific research. Additions like the equipment generously donated by Dr. Fliermans bolster the work we as faculty are already engaged in, thereby providing further on-campus research opportunities to students.”

Dr. Cheryl Crowe '03 Johnson, dean of the Shaw School of Sciences, says that donor support such as this has a transformative impact on the science program at Asbury

by providing resources for modern laboratory equipment, student research opportunities, faculty development, and hands-on learning experiences that prepare graduates for meaningful careers and service. “By investing in science at Asbury,” she says, “donors directly contribute to developing the next generation of scientists, healthcare professionals, educators, and leaders who will have a lasting influence on the Kingdom.”

The enduring truth of Scripture has guided Carl’s research and leadership, and his gift empowers the next generation to continue impacting the world through this same integration of faith and scientific inquiry. He offers this counsel to students: “Commit yourself to the Lord, and He will direct you to choose something that you love; then devote yourself to it. Enjoy life by understanding that its purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him, now and forever.”





1970

Dale Hale '70 earned his Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Counseling from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in December 2025.

Gene Ezell '70 is nominated for a 2026 Dove Award for his song "Life Hurts God Heals" sung by The Kingdom Heirs. It is nominated for Song of the Year. Another one of his songs, "When I Sit With Jesus," is included on the album "Steadfast Love," which is nominated for Album of the Year.

Phil Webster '77 appeared as an extra in the movie "A Great Awakening," which is about the relationship between George Whitefield and Ben Franklin.

Cinda Johnston '79 Swan was awarded an honorary doctorate from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Cinda recently retired from her position as the vice chair for the Board of Trustees at United Theological Seminary. She spent 17 years teaching at Lindsey Wilson College in the Religion Department.

1980

Amanda Dawson '84 Farmer published "Dissonant Chords, Joyful Harmony: Finding God's Grace in the Pain of Chronic Illness." This devotional offers daily reflections to help find God's grace amid life's struggles. **4**

Ed Thomas '85 published his debut novel, "The Executor's Silence," under the pen name Thomas Calder. Alongside the book, he founded CenterPoint Press, an independent publishing company dedicated to producing stories that explore

questions of legacy, responsibility, influence, and ethics. **3**

2000

Sarah Spice '01 Schwerin published a historical novel, "The Willow Still Sings." It can be purchased from Amazon or other major book distributors. **7**

Jessi Parker '05 published her third children's picture book, "Little Bear, Little Bear Just Can't Sleep." All three books are available on Amazon under the pen name Tuesday Parker. **2**

Jenna Stewart '09 Landacre is the new principal of Great Crossing High School in Georgetown, Ky.

2010

Anna Giaritelli '11 published her debut book, "Under Assault: A Crime Reporter's True Story Overcoming Sexual Trauma and Exposing Injustice." The book is a story of how God redeemed her tragedy into a message of hope for survivors everywhere. It is available at major bookstores nationwide. **6**

Matthew '17 and Rachel Halm '14 Chisholm founded Thistle Gate Farm in 2024, a family run enterprise committed to restorative practices. They live in Caro, Mich. **5**

Andrew and Shayna Aukerman '17 Dunn, and children Loretta, Mabel and Solomon, are proud to announce the arrival of Benjamin Alan in March 2026. Proud grandparents include **Rob '81 and Betty Donaldson '81 Aukerman**. **1**

LEAVE A LEGACY of Faith

By including Asbury University in your will or trust, you help shape the next generation of Christ-centered leaders—students who will serve God and impact His Kingdom world-wide. A planned gift is simple, flexible, and meaningful. It allows you to steward your blessings in a way that reflects your faith and values.

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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

Ada Edwards '44 Sweat, Education/Homemaker, 12/16/2025, Brunswick, GA

Christine Coffy '47 Whitaker, Education/Ministry, 6/20/2026, Kokomo, IN

Elizabeth "Beth" Callis '48 Ury, Education/Missions, 3/4/2026, Wilmore, KY

Rev. Loren Anderson '49, Ministry/Missions/Veteran, 5/12/2026, Broomfield, CO

Mary King '49 Turkington, Homemaker/Ministry, 2/2/2026, Lexington, KY

Marion Stetser '50 Bovill, Ministry/Salvation Army Officer, 4/26/2026, Egg Harbor Township, NJ

Margaret "Jean" King '51 Nocon, Education Administrator/Former Asbury Faculty & Staff, 3/16/2026, Dividing Creek, NJ

Dr. Richard Mitchell '52, Education/Ministry, 5/21/2026, Kent, OH

Eleanor Watkins '52 Whitsett, Music Education/Music Ministry/Musician, 3/5/2026, Oklahoma City, OK

Anna "Janie" Ripley '53 Davis, Education, 2/25/2026, Chagrin Falls, OH

Rev. Julian Brackman Sr. '55, Ministry, 3/10/2026, Woodstock, GA

Marilyn Thompson '55 Casey, Ministry/Missions/Volunteer, 6/9/2026, Williamsburg, VA

Betty Ewing '55 Cooper, Medical Education/Nurse, 3/17/2026, Lexington, KY

Sylvia Knepper '55 Nichols, Education, 3/21/2026, Poway, CA

Carroll Ferguson '55 Hunt Rader, Author/Former Alumni Board Member/Missions, 3/2/2026, Greenwood, IN

Rev. William "Bill" Tolliver Jr. '55, Beekeeper/Education/Ministry, 4/8/2026, Columbus, OH

Barbara Lehman '56 Lunsford, Education, 6/18/2026, Stacy, MN

Rev. Bruce Phillips '56, Ministry, 5/4/2026, Pitman, NJ

Ray Easter '57, Education/School Counselor/Veteran, 3/22/2026, Mount Pleasant, SC

Rev. Judith "Judy" Bish '57 Priest, Ministry/Missions, 4/18/2026, Newton, KS

Margaret "Maggie" '58 Mardis, Education/Ministry, 6/29/2026, Franklin, IN

Raymond Wallace Jr. '58, Veteran/USGS Hydrologist, 2/28/2026, Mc Lean, VA

Rev. Dwayne Kelsey '59, Ministry/Volunteer, 3/12/2026, Rochester Hills, MI

Alice Blackburn '59 Schmele, Education/Education Administrator, 2/16/2026, Grand Forks, ND

Dr. Michael Hall Sr. '60, Medicine/Military, 5/24/2026, Montverde, FL

Sara Partridge '60 Harkey, Artist/Ministry, 2/19/2026, Tallahassee, FL

Pastor David "Dave" Cornwell '61, Insurance/Ministry, 7/3/2026, Ligonier, IN

John "Don" McDougall '61, Education/Music Education/Music Ministry/Volunteer, 6/10/2026, Grandville, MI

Mary Speakman '61 Sutherland, Christian Education/Ministry/Missions, 6/3/2026, Wilmore, KY

Sarah Hinkle '61 Warner, Education/Volunteer, 6/15/2026, Manchester, MD

Carol Snyder '62 Sepulveda, 2/20/2025, Irving, TX

Rev. Roger Wolcott '62, Missions, 5/29/2026, Red Oak, TX

Rev. James "Jim" Turrentine '63, Ministry, 4/6/2026, Rome, GA

Maj. Georgia Cleveland '64 Henderson, Education/Ministry/Musician/Salvation Army Officer/Volunteer, 2/25/2026, Largo, FL

George Ribble '64, Clinical Social Worker/Psychology/Veteran, 3/30/2026, Sterling Heights, MI

Lt. Col. Charles Smith Jr. '64, Army Chaplain/Clinical Education/Counselor/Hospital Ministry, 3/5/2025, Appling, GA

Patricia "Pat" Payne '65 Hudson, Education, 3/27/2026, Kennesaw, GA

Cyrus "C. B." Hutcherson Jr. '65, Business Owner/Property Developer/Veteran, 12/14/2025, Eatonton, GA

Janice "Jan" Schroen '65 Nagel, Business Owner/Education/Grain Elevator Operator, 4/12/2026, Preston, MD

Ann Esther '65 Reincke, Administrative Assistant/Volunteer, 3/15/2026, Jacksonville, FL

Carol Braswell '66 Dunn, Air Force Administration, 3/6/2026, Macon, GA

Herbert Rhorer '66, Education/Veteran/Volunteer, 5/16/2026, Wilmore, KY

Maj. Wesley "Wes" Sundin '66, Salvation Army Officer, 5/16/2026, Peoria, AZ

Kevin Davies '67, Public Service/Soccer Official/Veteran, 3/3/2026, Cazenovia, NY

Nancy Saunders '67 Lawrence, Missions/Music Education/Music Ministry/Nurse, 3/16/2026, Belleville, IL

Sandra "Sandy" Segers '68 Osgood, Adult Educator/Government Commissary/Lab Researcher, 4/3/2026, Poquoson, VA

Rev. James Sunderland Jr. '68, Ministry/Volunteer, 6/29/2026, Montoursville, PA

James Frase-White '69, Business Owner/Commercial Artist/Education/Volunteer, 3/2/2026, Saint Johnsbury, VT

Pastor Theodore "Ted" Smith '69, Education/Ministry, 5/23/2026, Osceola, WI

Patsy "Pat" Danklefs '70 Shingledecker, Education/Missions, 4/17/2026, Wilmore, KY

Commr. Judith "Judy" White '71 Hedgren, Salvation Army Officer, 3/26/2026, San Antonio, FL

Linda "Kathy" Spann '71 Hollis, Social Work/Special Education, 12/13/2025, Columbus, GA

Melvin "Doug" Coy '72, Education/Law Enforcement, 6/21/2026, Cynthiana, KY

Arvid "Arv" Metcalf '73, Agriculture/Computer Programmer/Education/Pilot/Plumber/Veteran, 4/15/2026, Wilmore, KY

Gary Mitchell '73, Caretaker/Grounds Keeper, 3/14/2026, Franklin, IN

Dr. Bonita "Bonnie" Cairns '74 Descoteaux, Retired Asbury Faculty/Social Work, 4/29/2026, Wilmore, KY

June Page '74 Jagunic, Administration/Event Planning/Journalist/Published Poet, 4/27/2026, Youngstown, OH

James Young '74, Psychology, 6/3/2026, Glendora, CA

Angie Thomas '75 Simpson, Education, 5/2/2026, Lexington, KY

Karen Rader '76, Special Education, 6/11/2026, Springfield, OH

Donna Daugherty '77, Data Entry/Education, 3/30/2026, Cheektowaga, NY

Katherine Crowe '77 MacCord, Special Education, 4/23/2026, Millsboro, DE

Roger Potter '78, Draftsman/Education/Military, 6/3/2026, Lexington, KY

Elaine Eckhardt '79, Missions, 3/4/2026, Kendallville, IN

Randy Hensel '81, Business Owner/Real Estate/Veteran, 2/19/2026, Westboro, MO

Rev. Mark Shepherd '81, Ministry, 3/14/2026, Lexington, KY

Perry Case '86, Pharmaceutical Sales, 6/29/2026, Fishers, IN

Dr. Cynthia "Cindy" Carlstedt '86 Gunsalus, Education, 5/31/2026, Nicholasville, KY

Judith "Judy" '91 Pritchard, Education, 6/5/2026, Chesapeake, VA

Wayne Younger '92, Ministry/Volunteer, 3/9/2026, Pittsburgh, PA

Timothy "Tim" Doyle '97, Project Manager, 2/21/2026, Lexington, KY

Friends

Sarah Baldrige, 5/22/2026, Owensboro, KY

Viola Farnsley Case, 6/23/2025, Elizabeth, IN

Harlan Diller, 4/10/2026, Fort Wayne, IN

Paul Edwards, 4/15/2026, Versailles, KY

Michael Johnson, 5/7/2026, Wilmore, KY

Ingeborg "Marge" Wickstrom Keysor, 5/30/2026, Saint Paul, MN

Dr. Charles Killian, 6/16/2026, Garner, NC

Janet McKenna, 3/29/2026, Kirkland, WA

Rev. Raymond O'Neil, 1/28/2026, Fresno, CA

Pastor Phillip "Phil" Paino, 6/19/2025, Fort Wayne, IN

Paul Pierson, 2/2/2026, Knoxville, TN

Sharen Perkins Ramsey, 4/21/2026, Dallas, TX

Jacqueline Warnick Roberts, 3/3/2026, Former Asbury Faculty, Gainesville, FL

Wayne Roberts, 5/16/2026, Lexington, KY

Eric Schott, 12/08/2025, Gambier, OH

Carolyn Weeks Snodgrass, 12/17/2025, Tulsa, OK

Roy Sturm Jr., 2/4/2026, Hillsboro, IL

Martha Minton Turpin, Retired Asbury Staff, 2/27/2026, Lexington, KY

Dr. Dale Walker, Former Asbury Faculty, 12/13/2025, Asheville, NC

Michael "Mike" Watkins, 3/9/2026, Titusville, FL

Kenneth Webster, 6/2/2026, Bethany, OK

Stephen "Steve" Whitaker, 1/22/2026, Mount Sterling, KY



THE FALL IS *looking so good!*

- AU's tennis teams will enjoy a new outdoor tennis center on campus this fall.
- A \$2 million renovation of the dining hall will welcome students when they return (pictured at left).
- Lobby and office renovations were made in the McCreless Fine Arts Building.
- Kresge Residence Hall has new flooring and new furniture in common areas.
- Construction continues on the second floor of Hamann-Ray to house our Nursing Program, showcasing new clinical lab spaces, simulation labs, and offices (pictured at left).

Schedule OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 10-12 📅
Fall Alumni Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER 12 📅
President's Event in Cincinnati

SEPTEMBER 29 📅
President's Event in Nashville

OCTOBER 1-2 🎓
Fall Preview Visit Event

OCTOBER 1-3 🎓
Family Weekend

OCTOBER 8 📅
President's Event in Grand Rapids

OCTOBER 9-11 📅
Launching Well Retreat

OCTOBER 10 📅
President's Event in Chicago

OCTOBER 12 🎓
Homeschool Visit Day

OCTOBER 22-23 🎓
Equine Visit Event

NOVEMBER 7 📅
President's Event in Raleigh

DECEMBER 4 📅
Songs of the Season Concert



ADVANCEMENT EVENTS
advancement@asbury.edu



ADMISSIONS EVENTS
asbury.edu/visit-events



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“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that *your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*”

– 1 Corinthians 15:58

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