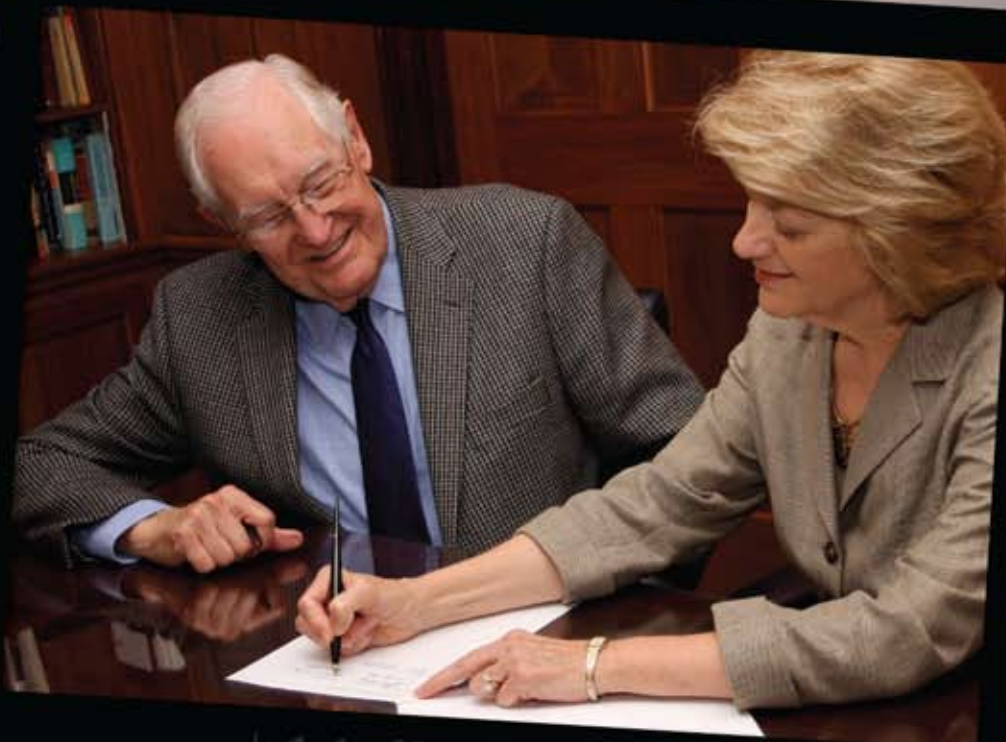


The Asbury Herald

VOLUME 118 NO. 3 FALL 2008



*This issue marks the final installment
of our three-part 2008 series:*

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE
ENGAGING THE PRESENT
ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

Envisioning THE FUTURE



*Students return for fall classes.
Estes Chapel, Kentucky campus*

Envisioning THE FUTURE

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The *Asbury Herald*

The Asbury Herald is published by Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY 40390-1199. This issue is dated Fall 2008, Vol. 118, No. 3. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Asbury Herald*, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY 40390-1199. Asbury Theological Seminary is a religious, not-for-profit, educational institution, which has long enjoyed the benefit of estate stewardship of many friends. If you are considering a bequest, please use our full legal name and address: Asbury Theological Seminary, 204 N. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY 40390-1199 or call 1-800-2ASBURY for specific information. Find *The Asbury Herald* and other Asbury Seminary resources online at asburyseminary.edu or e-mail communications. office@asburyseminary.edu.

ON THE COVER (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT): Florida campus students; Asbury Seminary President Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas and Asbury College President Dr. Sandra Gray; Kentucky student Jason Jackson and his wife, Sarah

Dear Friends of Christ and of Asbury Seminary,

If you are a faithful reader of *The Asbury Herald* you know the theme of our previous issue was the present, and that the one preceding that was built around the past and our heritage. You don't need much imagination or sense of order to guess that this issue will be about the future. We won't disappoint you. Our theme is the future.

Life is such an ever-flowing stream that there is only a breath between the past and the future, and we call that breath "the present." What we do with today builds a foundation for the future, or it builds a fence around it. I'm happy to report that Asbury Theological Seminary is working in such a way today that tomorrow, under God, is full of promise.

Let me give a very practical for instance. Every department of our seminary worked with our finance office during the late winter and spring to put together a zero-based budget. That is, instead of looking at the previous year's budget and revising it slightly (which tends to be a good way to spend still more, pretty much as it was spent before) we started as if it was our very first budget, with every item carefully justified. This bodes well for the future.

Then, we're celebrating a commitment this year from Bill and Carol Latimer for what is probably the largest single scholarship fund in our school's history. This is a step forward that will bless students for several years to come, and that through them will bless souls and churches and other institutions on into eternity.

And then there's our developing relationship with our sister institution across the street, Asbury College. Our provost, Dr. Leslie Andrews, has worked with our academic team to provide a cooperative program that will allow religion majors at the college to transfer appropriate credits toward their graduate study at the seminary – a program that now is being requested by a number of other Christian liberal arts schools. The college has begun a master's degree in social work in cooperation with our seminary, so that a number of credits in the college program can be earned here at the seminary – an arrangement that blesses both institutions. And a few weeks ago I was proud to join Asbury College's President Sandra Gray in signing a document that provides for the college to use some of the facilities on our Florida campus for the college's degree completion program, which has already been enthusiastically approved by the education office of the state of Florida.

You get the idea. But read on, and you will see the story expand, excite and inspire. I invite you to be part of it.

Sincerely,



J. Ellsworth Kalas
President, Asbury Theological Seminary



Students check out books in the Asbury Florida campus library

Dreams and possibilities

BY LESLIE A. ANDREWS

IN ITS SIMPLEST SENSE, “THEOLOGY” IS THE STUDY OF THE NATURE OF GOD. JESUS “TAUGHT THEOLOGY” THROUGHOUT HIS THREE-YEAR ROAMING SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP. IN THE EARLY CHURCH BAPTISMAL CATECHESIS EVOLVED TO TEACHING THE ALREADY BAPTIZED. CHURCH COUNCILS FORMULATED CREEDS (“I BELIEVE” STATEMENTS) THAT SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME CENTRAL TO STRUCTURING THE TEACHING OF THEOLOGY.

“Theological education” is a context and system in which people engage in the study of God. That context can be a local church or a more formal setting such as a seminary where women and men prepare for full-time professional leadership of the church. Harvard College, the first American college, was founded in 1636 for the primary purpose of training clergy. Harvard became a prototype for the seminaries and divinity schools of today. Increasingly a dichotomy developed between a “learned clergy” and a less informed laity. Theology became the purview of a professional ministry. School with its disciplines and ordered curriculum became the primary context for theological education.

Founded in 1923 as a seminary in the Wesleyan, evangelical, holiness tradition, Asbury Theological Seminary has provided a context for theological education where thousands of graduates have gone forth as a “well-trained, sanctified, Spirit-filled, evangelistic ministry” to spread scriptural holiness around the world. In pragmatic terms, a classroom context where teaching, learning and research could take place in a community of committed faithful gathered for a few years “worked” and worked well.

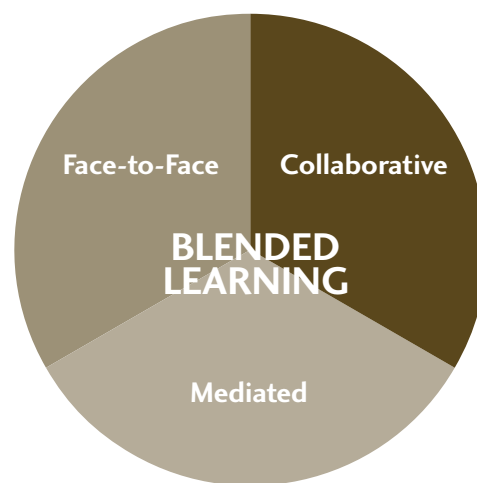
Virtual Campus: In the 1980s then President David McKenna began to dream of a network of institutions like Asbury connected around the world through the capabilities of technology. The groundwork was being laid for the context of “theological education” to shift to a broader setting. In the mid-1990s the

dream continued taking shape through the generosity of Ralph Waldo Beeson and later Robert Buckman. A “seamless infrastructure” began to develop that would enable an Asbury student from anywhere in the world to register for classes, to pay bills and to acquire learning resources online. In 1997 the first three ExL (online) classes were opened with 19 students and three professors. In 2008-2009 Asbury Theological Seminary will offer approximately 150 online classes that enroll 500 students.

A major step was taken this summer in moving the Virtual campus from a seminary server delivery to a web-based delivery system. Immediately students worldwide have more ready access to our Virtual campus. In addition the 10-year-old First Class platform for ExL classes, largely textually-driven, has been exchanged for a shareware system that not only will be more cost-efficient but also allows faculty to incorporate more media into their online classes. And now we have oneATS, a one-stop password entry to the seminary’s Web site, to the Virtual Campus, to the Asbury Information system (AIS) and it can be set up to monitor outside email accounts (such as hotmail, gmail, etc.) as well. The next step we anticipate is incorporating cameras into personal computers that will enable faculty and students to talk literally face-to-face. Podcasting and real-time streaming are already in place through the VC.

Florida Campus: The dream continued under President Maxie Dunnam in the creation of

the Florida campus. Recognizing the growth of the Hispanic population and its emerging influence in American life, Orlando was a logical place to plant a “seed plot” for theological education in a multicultural context. Seminary leaders hoped Asbury Seminary could learn from this cultural lab and become better prepared to equip all its students for ministry in an increasingly globalized context. On the eve of its 10th anniversary, the Florida campus is making its impact felt not only in Florida but throughout the Asbury system.



What’s Next? Like the Starship Enterprise’s warp drive, the speed with which change in education occurs both threatens and challenges us. For thousands of years the context of education was face to face. That is, a teacher and a student spoke and listened to one another as they gathered in the same

place at the same time. They could respond to one another's body signals as well as spoken words and intonation. Visual aids might have supported teaching and learning, but they tended to be incidental to the process rather than central. Then a paradigm shift occurred with the development of computers and the Internet that led to dramatic changes in the ways in which education, including theological, could be delivered. Now we have access to "blended learning," or the capacity to mix and match these different delivery options for theological education.

Given this reality, what might Asbury Seminary do next? What if human and physical resources were not an issue? What if geographic location did not matter? What if Asbury's value of Christian formation and transformational learning could be assured?

STEP: The context of theological education has changed in a significant way. Many denominations do not require a seminary degree to credential their candidates for ministry. In addition, there is an increasing trend for Christian colleges and universities to offer shorter Master of Arts programs in religious studies. Students coming to Asbury Seminary who have graduated from undergraduate Bible and theology programs or graduate M.A. programs frequently complain of redundancy in the curriculum. STEP (Seminary Track Eligibility Program) provides a way by which these graduates with a degree in Bible and theology may receive advanced standing and reduce the number of hours required to complete the Master of Divinity degree. Asbury Seminary has entered into a five-year pilot program with Asbury College to determine the ongoing viability of this approach. Instead of competing with sister institutions, Asbury Seminary plans to partner with them to maximize the opportunities of theological education each institution has to offer.

ACE: ACE (Asbury Cluster Education) is still in the approval process with state and accrediting agencies. If approved, it will enable Asbury

Seminary to offer 32 hours of theological education to 25 to 35 peer learners under the tutelage of regular Asbury Seminary faculty and within easy driving distance of their homes and ministry settings. Careful attention is being given to formation development through on-site leadership. Coupled with our Virtual campus and short-term courses on Kentucky and Florida geophysical campuses, students have the option of completing their theological degree without ever having to relocate.

Partnerships: STEP and ACE are examples of ways in which the seminary is seeking to build partnerships. Another example is the seminary's recent formalization of a partnership with Asbury College. This partnership enables the college to deliver the ACHIEVE degree-completion program on the seminary's Florida campus. The seminary is examining ways the ACHIEVE program can help its Latino/Latina Studies Program students earn bachelor's degrees by articulating the work students do through LLSP with the requirements of ACHIEVE. In this way LLSP students may have more access to bachelor's degrees that will then qualify them for admission to the seminary in order to earn a graduate theological degree. In addition to these developments, partnerships with theological institutions around the globe are being explored.

Two other partnerships in place are with the London School of Theology and the Nazarene Theological College of Manchester University. These partnerships have made it possible for students to obtain British doctoral degrees under the supervision of Asbury Seminary faculty. Almost 40 students are enrolled in these programs that while not technically Asbury Seminary degree programs, nevertheless permit supervision of the student's thesis by an Asbury faculty member.

We are continuing to explore options to offer academic excellence coupled with spiritual formation in a variety of ways that meet the current and future needs of students. We strive to be ready when God places the call upon

students' lives to prepare them theologically through a transforming experience offered by Asbury Seminary to help fulfill that call.



Dr. Leslie A. Andrews is Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost at Asbury Seminary. She is also a Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Research. Dr. Andrews has served Asbury for more than 17 years.

Three campuses, one 'Asbury experience'



Carolyn Nettles

Pastor Carolyn Nettles enjoyed the best of all three of Asbury Theological Seminary's campuses – Kentucky, Florida and Virtual.

The former math teacher was called to the ministry and started her Asbury journey on the Kentucky campus in 1998. Later, Nettles' husband got a job in Washington, D.C., so they left Asbury briefly.

In 2000, another job brought the couple to Florida where they moved directly across the street from the Florida campus. Nettles resumed her studies on the Florida campus until the fall of 2002, when another move led her to begin classes on the Virtual campus.

Nettles, who completed her Master of Divinity degree in 2005, enjoyed each campus for its unique characteristics.

"Each campus was different, but at each one, the most important thing was always your relationship with Jesus Christ," said Nettles, who pastors two United Methodist churches in West Virginia. "It's the Asbury experience, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Home sweet home

Plans under way for new family housing complex

BY MELISSA NIPPER

ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IS A PLACE OF LEARNING, A PLACE TO GROW SPIRITUALLY AND TO HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS WHO COME TO THE KENTUCKY CAMPUS EACH YEAR, IT'S ALSO A PLACE TO CALL HOME.

In recent years, though, places to call home have become harder to find. With the 44 duplex units built by the seminary from 1963 to 1965 beginning to show serious maintenance issues entering the new millennium, the Board of Trustees and the administration realized the family housing complex needed major upgrades. As the extent of the needs became clearer, a vision for a major rebuilding project also emerged.

Five years ago, in order to prepare for new housing, the seminary began to demolish each duplex as both sides became vacant. Unfortunately—or so it seemed at the time—these preparations coincided with a downturn in the markets, which resulted in serious fiscal constraints. While the duplex demolitions continued, it appeared that any major building project would have to be put on hold until a financing opportunity or plan presented itself. At the time, no one imagined the plans God had in store for Asbury and its future students.

Answered prayer

Students move to Wilmore from every corner of the globe, often bringing spouses and children with them to start a new life among the Asbury community. The increasing number of students with families coupled with the deterioration of the existing facilities created a pressing need for new family student housing.

This need will soon be met thanks to a matching gift from Bill and Carol Latimer of the Bill and Carol Latimer Charitable Foundation that will fund one half of the cost of the housing development. In May, the Board of Trustees voted to “approve moving forward with the family housing project [and] expresses gratitude to Mr. Bill Latimer

for his part in it, and start raising funds for the Seminary’s matching part.” The vote approving this motion was unanimous.

At the master plan stage of the project, the design firm has projected a cost that will exceed \$20 million if the development is completed as currently designed. The master plan reveals a beautifully designed residential community along with an ambitious financial challenge for Asbury and its constituents.

“I know the need exists for better student housing,” Bill Latimer said. “And we wanted to help meet that need at Asbury. My one request for the apartments is to make sure they do them right. If anything is worth doing, it’s worth doing right.”

The design calls for a pedestrian-friendly, sustainable community featuring low-main-

tenance, high-quality and highly efficient construction on 32 acres, immediately to the north of main campus. The development will provide approximately 150 living units, consisting of row houses and townhouses.

The two-story townhouses and row houses will be grouped in small clusters and include primarily two- and three-bedroom floor plans and handicap-accessible units. The open floor plans feature front porches, creating opportunities to connect with neighbors.

Public spaces, including a village green, walking trails, basketball court, tennis courts, nature area and community center, will also foster a sense of community among its residents.

Lives intersecting

Bill and Carol Latimer had no connections to Asbury Seminary until three years ago when their lives crossed paths with Asbury alumnus Art McClellan, senior pastor at First United Methodist Church of Sarasota, Fla.



ABOVE: Kentucky students and families enjoy a picnic on the green.

The Latimers are residents of Union City, Tenn., but they also own a condo in Florida where they spend three months each year. While in Florida, they are seasonal congregants at McClellan's church and developed a friendship with McClellan and his wife, Faith. Despite the Latimers' short stay in Florida, they are a vital part of the congregation there and help whenever they see a need, McClellan said.

"They were first in line to support the ministry with their encouragement and financial support where they extended a matching gift challenge to the congregation," McClellan said.

Generosity is a cornerstone of the Latimers' lives. The Bill and Carol Latimer Charitable Foundation impacts thousands of people through its efforts. The foundation was the major contributor to a 32,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art library in Union City. They offer financial assistance to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Boy Scouts of America and the Boys and Girls Clubs. Their College Opportunity Fund provides no-interest loans to hundreds of students.

As a successful businessman, Latimer draws inspiration from a favorite John Wesley quotation: "Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can."

Laying the foundation

One night at dinner, the Latimers asked the McClellans to talk about God's call on their lives for ministry. That conversation planted the seeds that eventually grew into plans for a new family housing complex at Asbury.

"Being led by God to the pastoral ministry, we chose Asbury because we wanted a seminary experience that would best prepare me to be a pastor and our family for the life of ministry," said McClellan, who completed his master of divinity degree in 2000. "In Asbury, God led well."

When McClellan was enrolled at Asbury, approximately 70 percent of his peers were second-career students, many with spouses and children. The McClellans relocated to Wilmore with three young children and not a lot of housing options.

"While we found the extended campus life community very nurturing to our family, we did not easily find housing for our family," McClellan said. "Campus housing for families

with children was exceedingly limited and off-campus housing caused us to recalculate the affordability of attending seminary."

During the dinner conversation, Latimer asked McClellan: "What would you do if you could help the seminary financially?"

"I reiterated the limitations of campus family housing and the fact that while we were blessed with generous financial support, many seminarians begin their ministry careers with great financial debt," McClellan said. "I said I would build homes for families and seek to underwrite financial needs scholarships."

McClellan invited the Latimers to visit Asbury, which they did for the first time in June 2007.

"I attended a Thursday morning chapel and was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the students," Latimer said. "Asbury is a very Biblical-based seminary that is doing a good job of teaching its students."

The Latimers also attended a President's Retreat and their interest in helping the seminary began to grow. It blossomed into a generous matching gift to build a new family housing complex.

"I believe God introduced Asbury to Bill and Carol through our crossed paths and my willingness to share my story," McClellan said. "I encouraged them to be introduced and enlightened to the rest of the Asbury story with a campus visit. The staff and the faculty of the seminary took over from that point and the amazing story continues."

Currently detailed plans are being developed by a design firm working with an inter-departmental project design team drawn from across the seminary. They will present a final design to the Board of Trustees this fall for its approval. Construction is anticipated to begin shortly after the design and construction documents are finalized and approved and in conjunction with reaching the appropriate fund-raising milestones.

Ultimately, this magnificent project depends on the full support of Asbury's board, alumni, friends and loyal donors, if we are to reach the matching gift goal.

If you would like more information about contributing to this matching gift for family housing, please contact Ronnie Jones, executive director of advancement at (859) 858-2305.



Jason and Sarah Jackson

High-quality family housing creates community

Sarah and Jason Jackson felt right at home when they moved to the Asbury community three and a half years ago.

The Jacksons moved from Tulsa, Okla., so Jason could attend Asbury. Sarah was named coordinator of student services at the seminary. It made sense for the couple to live in married student housing, just a short walk from work and class. Since Jason wanted to attend seminary full time, student housing was also the best financial option.

"Affordable housing was one of the things that drew us to Asbury," Sarah said.

Living on campus also helped the Jacksons connect with the Asbury community on a deeper level. "Right away, I found other spouses in my same life situation," Sarah said. "One of the things I appreciated immediately was the connection with families from all over the world."

The Jacksons recently moved out of their student apartment because they want to start a family and there were no openings in the family housing units.

"We lived in an apartment where you had to be married, but couldn't have kids," Sarah said. "Right across the street were married students with families, but there were no openings and a long waiting list for those apartments."

The matching gift from the Bill and Carol Latimer Charitable Foundation to provide new family housing on campus will be a blessing to couples like the Jacksons, who desire to be part of a close-knit, on-campus community.

"What excited me about the generosity of this family is that it has proven to me that Asbury cares as much about your home life as they do your experience in the classroom," Sarah said.





LEXINGTON AVENUE

EAST COLLEGE STREET

COMMUNITY CENTER

THE GREEN

MAINTENANCE SHED

TOWN HOUSES
2-story; 85 total units

ASBURY
SEMINARY
CAMPUS

PED

ASBURY SEMINARY FAMI



COMMONS

NATURE AREA

PARK

COMMONS

ROW HOUSES
2-story; 91 total units

ESTRIAN BRIDGE

TENNIS COURTS

AMPHITHEATER

BASKETBALL COURTS

LY HOUSING PROPOSAL



A Future with Hope

BY STEVE HARPER

WHEN E. STANLEY JONES WAS ASKED TO NAME THE BEST YEARS OF HIS LIFE, HE USUALLY RESPONDED, “THE NEXT 10.” HIS LIFE WAS ORIENTED TO THE FUTURE, NOT THE PAST. THE SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR THE FLORIDA CAMPUS OF ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. OUR PAST 10 YEARS HAVE BEEN WONDERFUL, BUT THE NEXT 10 WILL BE BETTER STILL.

Two previous articles about the campus have shed light on the past and the present. In this article, I’ll focus on the future, beginning with the reminder that we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Asbury Florida campus. A host of special events are under way. I invite you to visit the seminary’s Web site frequently and follow the celebration as it unfolds (asburyseminary.edu). We will update the site throughout the year.

But an anniversary must be more than a celebration of the past; it must symbolize a spirit and illustrate a commitment. More than a time for remembering, our 10th anniversary is a time for envisioning. When we do that, one word stands out — hope. God has given us a future with hope, which is the promise of Jeremiah 29:11. I want you to join us in that journey of hope, and I want this article to help you do that.

We are the heirs of tremendous promises—the Great Commandments, the Great Commission and our Wesleyan heritage of personal and social holiness. The seminary’s founding mission, “to prepare and send forth a well-trained, sanctified, Spirit-filled, evangelistic ministry to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world,” gives us an amazing purpose. By these very things we are a blessed institution.

The Asbury Florida campus exists to honor and manifest these historic purposes, and we do it in every way we know how. But the



ABOVE: *The Florida campus*

Trustees had more in mind when they voted to open this campus. They gave us a specific mission: “to deliver theological education that is multi-denominational, multi-racial and multi-cultural in a major urban center in the United States.” In that regard, Orlando has proved to be an ideal place. In its June 2008 issue, “Fast Company” magazine named Orlando as one of the 12 key cities on the earth to watch, stating Orlando has “hot spots, is full of life and bursting with diversity.”

Our traditional master of divinity and master of arts degrees are offered in a dynamic culture, both in terms of the church and the society. But Orlando is also a gateway city to the world, calling us to a future filled with

new degree and non-degree opportunities. The landscape of theological education is changing as non-mainline churches want their clergy and laity to be trained differently. Parachurch organizations are also interested in developing partnerships that can train their people for more effective Kingdom ministries.

We have tapped into that potential through our Latino/Latina Studies Program, and we are on the brink of an exciting partnership with the AME Church. We have connections with some of the many parachurch organizations that headquarter in the Orlando area, and we are having conversations with some organizations that may be willing to relocate here if we can work together with them. The



ABOVE: Orlando. Photo courtesy Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.®

21st century is being called the century of “Globalization.” We are located and poised to harvest much fruit from that tree of opportunity.

But there is more. We now have more than 250 alumni who have graduated from the Asbury Florida campus. They have fanned out into an array of ministries in Florida, the Southeast and beyond. Already they and other Asbury Seminary alumni are asking us to join with them in ongoing relationships, and they are opening doors for us into places where we clearly see additional potential. Graduates from the Asbury Florida campus are one of our greatest blessings as we look to our future growth and development.

And still there is more. Beginning this fall, we will partner with Asbury College as they launch their “Asbury Achieve” program in Orlando on this campus. Achieve is a degree completion program for people who want to finish a Baccalaureate degree in a Christian-college environment. It will include multicultural dimensions and educational options, making it a direct addition to the founding mission of the Florida campus and enabling us to reach more people than ever before.

Asbury Theological Seminary was birthed at Asbury College in 1923, and we are happy to be joining together in this new venture.

The future I’m describing is in the DNA of the institution. Henry Clay Morrison dreamed of a seminary that would offer creative and courageous theological education at a time when many seminaries were defaulting on their historic missions. The seminary’s original logo’s words, “The Whole Bible for the Whole World” (stamped on Asbury College’s logo as well), was Morrison’s way of declaring from the start that the seminary would be nothing less than a servant institution for Kingdom ministers, no matter where they lived.

In that same spirit, Dr. J.C. McPheeters, at age 90, preached what turned out to be his last sermon in Estes Chapel. His subject was “The New Things God is Teaching Me.” I left the chapel that day praying that the same mantle of envisioning God gave our early leaders would continue to live in those of us who have come since. The Asbury Florida campus is the latest manifestation of that original vision. The next 10 years will

hold the greatest opportunities that Asbury Theological Seminary has ever known. But as the Bible reminds us: to whom much is given, much is required. More than ever, we must go to our knees in prayer and then rise up to serve Christ in more ways than we ever have. As we continue to offer our traditional programs, we must also discern new expressions that reflect the fresh works of the Spirit on the earth today.

Each year, our graduating class on the Asbury Florida campus chooses a verse to represent their experiences and capture their dreams. The class of 2008 chose Jeremiah 29:11. Their time at Asbury confirmed to them that God has indeed given us a future with hope. They are serving God with that perspective. As we remain faithful to God, we can say, as E. Stanley Jones did, that our best years are “the next 10.” Please join us in praying that it will be so.



Steve Harper is Vice President and Professor of Spiritual Formation at the Asbury Florida campus of Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando.

On the journey

BY J. ELLSWORTH KALAS

I'VE HAD A LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE FUTURE AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER. NO DOUBT THIS FEELING SPRINGS PARTLY FROM MY UPBRINGING. AS AN IOWAN BORN AND BRED I SUBMIT THAT IT'S NO MISTAKE THAT "FIELD OF DREAMS" WAS SET IN IOWA BECAUSE IT'S AS NATIVE TO IOWA AS CORN AND HOGS TO THINK THAT IF YOU WORK FOR THE FUTURE, YOU'LL GET IT.

But it was my Christian faith that put real content into my thinking about the future. I was born again as a 10-year-old, and to be born again is to take an insistent grasp on all of life – body, mind and spirit, in this world and in the world to come. Within the next few months I had a series of future-oriented experiences. I began to tithe, which meant I began putting one-tenth of everything that came into my hands into the future – in the church, missions, Sunday school and people. And I felt a call to preach, which is a pretty ambitious enterprise for a sixth-grader. Then I committed myself to read the Bible through within a year. This was a very futuristic enterprise because it meant reading three chapters of the Bible every weekday and five chapters every Sunday, in the King James Version. That's what you call biting off the future in small chunks.

I've been in the future business ever since. How could it be otherwise? When John the Baptist prepared the world for Jesus, he did so with the word *repent*, and when Jesus began to preach, it was with the same word. Repent is an indispensable word if you're interested in the future because we have to take care of the past if we hope to have a future – and to take care of the past means to repent of it, to turn around and to make a new start. In time I came to realize that the Lord's Prayer, which I mumbled so thoughtlessly as a boy (and sometimes as an adult, too) is a future-looking prayer. You've hardly begun it before you pray, "Your kingdom come," and that's as solid future-thinking as you can get.

I thank God for the people who bought into my future. Even after a long lifetime I still thank God nearly every day for those Sunday school teachers who took time to care about my future. It was a Sunday school teacher who gave me my first Bible, another who taught me to tithe and still another who taught me (without knowing it) that I dare never preach a sermon that I think is ordinary or expendable. Those Sunday school teachers shaped my future.

And what more shall I say? I think of those evangelists I heard in my boyhood, from Billy Sunday to Jeanette Markley, all of them larger than life, and each one stretching my expectations for the future. I think of the high school debate coach who was ruthless in his insistence on excellence. And I think of all those teachers, some secular

and some spiritual, who made me passionate about the future, both in this world and in the world to come.

In my 38 years as a pastor I believed so much in the future that I taught a confirmation class for seventh-graders for 30-some weeks every year. I wasn't really a good teacher for that age group, but I hope they knew I believed in them and in their future under God. And then there were my years in evangelism with the World Methodist Council, where I tried to help churches and preachers believe in both their responsibility and their holy potential under God.

Since 1993, I've been part of this magnificent enterprise called Asbury Theological Seminary! I can't think of a calling that has more to do with the future than the calling that is ours here. Our students have to believe in the future to come here – especially when it means leaving an established career and beginning again at what some would call the bottom. Our faculty, administrators and trustees have to believe in the future and in God's plan for the future in order to give of their time, love, money and heart. And our financial supporters believe, too – there are so many places they can put their money. When they choose to put it here, they're saying they see a future in our students and in the education we give them. It's a privilege to be part of these futures.

Peter reminded the people on the Day of Pentecost that God would pour out his Spirit and that our sons and our daughters would prophesy, our young men see visions and our old men dream dreams. The Lord willing, one of these days I will be an old man. When that time comes, I hope I will still be dreaming dreams. Because we Christians have a love affair with the future – in this world and in the world to come.



One of Asbury's most beloved professors, J. Ellsworth Kalas also serves as the seminary's president. He has expertise in narrative preaching and church renewal, authoring over 30 books, 13 adult study quarterlies and recording the entire Bible on audiocassette.

Knowing our mission is a blessing

BY RONNIE JONES

Recently, I took a vacation and visited my cousin. We reminisced about our families and discussed his mother, who died last year at the age of 92.

I vividly remember seeing my aunt Bernice adorned in an ankle length dress, full apron and wearing a bonnet tied under the chin. I revisited memories of her in the barn milking a cow, feeding chickens, running the dogs out of her flowers, making a banana pudding or churning butter.

My cousin then said something about his mother that made me shudder — not because it was bad or dreadful, but because it sent a spiritual tingle up my spine and instantly relayed a distinctly Christian message I needed to hear.

He said, “My mother never got any lower than the potatoes she dug out of the ground, she never got any higher than the hoe handle she dug them up with and she got no farther away than the barnyard.”

Wow, what a thought! My aunt would never have had an issue with her role in the family nor the hard work she performed every day of her life. She simply knew who she was, what she had to do, why she had to do it and for whom she was doing it. This thought made me take a swift venture into my own calling and role. Perhaps it will do the same for you. Let me proclaim, we are somebody in Christ Jesus! But do we know who we really are? Do we know what it is that we have

to do? Do we know why we do it, and do we know for whom we labor in the task? I hope we do. Aren't you glad that knowing your foundation to be firmly established in Christ is the sure foundation for a dynamic future in the Kingdom? This is exciting news.

As an alumnus of Asbury Theological Seminary and now as a member of the administration, I am so glad we know some things about ourselves. First, we are Wesleyan, we are evangelical and we are Kingdom seekers — this is who we are. Second, we are all about sending out people to change the world — this is what we do. Third, we love the body of Christ, its people and the people yet to come into the body of Christ — this is why we do it. And finally, we do it for the sake of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A lot of good things are happening at Asbury Seminary, and they are not happening by accident. We are blessed with so many alumni, donor friends, foundations and others who are helping us stay the course that was charted for us more than 85 years ago. As we look into the future, we are excited because it is ever so bright. Many like you will continue to be a part of our family, many will choose to become a part of what we're doing here and many others will be blessed, nurtured and ministered to by Asbury Seminary — simply because we know who we are, what we have to do, why we do it and for whom we do it.

Gifts have global impact

Kaupo Kant ministers at a church in southeastern Estonia, but his desire to become a more effective leader brought him to Asbury Theological Seminary's Kentucky campus for the Beeson International Leaders program.

“The Beeson program is important because it brings together students, pastors and leaders from all over the world,” Kant said. “We have people from almost all time zones together and we are learning how to be leaders in the global world.”

The format of the Beeson International Leaders track is ideal for students like Kant, who cannot leave

their ministries for extended periods. Instead, students are required to be on campus for just six weeks during each of their four years of study. The International Leaders track is also a full-scholarship program, covering costs for everything from tuition to travel expenses.

Kant is thankful for donors who have given to the seminary and created a way for him to continue his studies and make a greater impact in Estonia. “This is God's gift through you to us, and it makes our studies possible,” he said. “Without it, there would be no way to come here and study.”



Kaupo Kant

10 easy ways to give to Asbury Seminary

Online:

Visit asburyseminary.edu/givenow to learn more about this giving option.

By mail: Use the enclosed self-addressed, postage-paid envelope to send in a gift.

By phone: Call our toll-free number, 800.2ASBURY, and ask for the Advancement office, ext. 2305.

Automatic monthly gifts: These can be set up through your Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, checking account or savings account.

Gift of stock: This can be set up through the Advancement office.

Charitable gift annuities: Make a donation and create a tax deduction, while also receiving a fixed annuity payment for life for you or another beneficiary.

Charitable remainder trusts: Learn how to transfer assets into a trust and that will provide your beneficiaries with payments for life or for some period of time.

Life insurance: A planned gift to Asbury Seminary can be made through a gift of life insurance.

Matching gift: When giving, remember that many companies offer their employees a matching gift benefit that can double your gift to Asbury Seminary. Visit our Web site at asburyseminary.edu/givenow/matching.php to see if your employer offers that benefit.

Bequest: Name Asbury Seminary in your will or trust.

For more information about any of these giving options, please call Advancement at 800.2ASBURY, ext. 2305.

ASBURY NEWS

oneATS



Register to win a free iPod

All alumni of Asbury Seminary are eligible for an iPod giveaway. To enter the drawing, register on oneATS, your online source for Asbury news updates, forums and more. You can join oneATS at any time at asburyseminary.edu, but you have until noon on Nov. 21 to enter the iPod drawing. The winner will be announced Nov. 21, 2008.

Asbury announces new degree track

Asbury Theological Seminary is excited to announce a new specialized worship ministries track to the Christian Ministries degree. Asbury recognized the need for a specialized worship ministry track to address the changing focus on worship in today's churches and ministry opportunities. More churches have staff positions with titles such as "minister of worship" or "minister of worship and the arts," creating a heightened interest in worship studies. Applications are now being accepted for this newly created degree track.

The worship ministries track beginning this fall is part of Asbury Seminary's Master of Arts in Christian Ministries degree program, designed to prepare women and men for competent leadership in specialized ministries in their faith communities. Students in this program are required to take 60 hours of coursework, with 18 hours of core courses, 18 hours of general electives and 24 hours earned in their specialized ministry track.

Donor offers million-dollar match

A generous donor recently offered, in the form of a \$1 million match, to give \$1 for every \$2 received in donations to Asbury Seminary. We have currently raised more than \$1.3 million of the \$2 million needed. As you prayerfully consider making a gift to Asbury, please remember that your gift will be multiplied. We encourage you to take advantage of the enclosed prepaid envelope when making your gift.

Shane Claiborne to speak at Asbury Seminary



Shane Claiborne, prominent Christian activist and author of *The Irresistible Revolution* and *Jesus for President*, will speak in Estes Chapel at 11 a.m. on Nov. 4, the day the United States elects its next president. The topic of Claiborne's Election Day address is Jesus for President.

Claiborne is a founding partner of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner city Philadelphia that has helped birth and connect radical faith communities around the world. His ministry experience is varied, from a 10-week stint working alongside Mother Teresa in Calcutta, to a year spent serving a wealthy mega-congregation at Willow Creek Community Church outside Chicago.

Kingdom Encounter

Kingdom Encounter 2009: Reaching the World will be held Feb. 2-4, 2009, in Orlando, Fla. The featured speakers are Tyron Inbody, Professor Emeritus of Theology at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio; and 1996 Heisman Trophy winner Danny Wuerffel, a former quarterback for the University of Florida Gators and executive director of Desire Street Ministries, which exists to train and send leaders to revitalize impoverished neighborhoods through spiritual and community development, education and replication of leadership in the neighborhoods it serves.

PREACH IT!

Asbury Seminary presents Preach IT!

Preach IT!, a conference developed to provide dynamic preaching from some of today's leading ministers of the gospel, will be held Oct. 27-29, 2008, at The Power Center in Houston.

The conference, which is offered through the Beeson International Center for Biblical Preaching and Church Leadership at Asbury Theological Seminary, will feature several guest speakers including Kirbyjon Caldwell, senior pastor of Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston; Sean Gladding, co-pastor at Mercy Street in Houston; Bishop Janice Huie, bishop of the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; Ellsworth Kalas, president of Asbury Seminary; Tom Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University; and Kent Reynolds, pastor in residence of the Beeson Center and adjunct professor in the areas of preaching and church leadership at Asbury Seminary.

General registration is \$195. Special rates are available for groups of five or more. For more information and to register, visit asburyseminary.edu.

Reading God's word together

This year there are two opportunities to read along with the students, faculty and staff at Asbury Theological Seminary. The Asbury Kentucky and Florida chapel offices have each created a Reader.

The Asbury Florida Reader is a read-through-the-Bible focused on "The Whole Story of God for the Whole People of God." It's available online at asburyseminary.edu. You can find the Reader by clicking on the "Asbury Seminary Celebrates 10 Years" icon.

The Asbury Kentucky chapel office is providing a Reader online (asburyreader.com) and in print. Print copies may be purchased for a \$5 donation plus shipping. Call the chapel office at 859.858.2198 to place an order.

Please join our community as we read God's word together throughout the year.

Faculty Publications



Bill Arnold, *Genesis*. The New Cambridge Bible Commentary Series. New York/Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.



Meesaeng Lee Choi, *The Rise of the Korean Holiness Church in relation to the American Holiness Movement: Wesleyan "Scriptural Holiness" and the "Fourfold Gospel."* Lanham, Maryland, Toronto, Plymouth, UK: The Scarecrow Press and The Center for the Study of World Christian Revitalization Movements, 2008.



Virginia Todd Holman, *Inside the Leader's Head: Unraveling Personal Obstacles to Ministry*, co-authored with Stephen L. Martyn. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2008.

J. Ellsworth Kalas, *The Beatitudes from the Back Side*. Abingdon Press, 2008; *Easter from the Back Side*. Abingdon Press, 2008.

New Faculty

Asbury welcomes two visiting professors to the Kentucky campus.

Dr. Bart Bruehler will serve as visiting professor of New Testament. He received his Ph.D. at Emory University and his M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary.

Dr. Albin C. Whitworth will serve as visiting professor of music. He has been connected to Asbury Seminary through his music and exceptional organ skills since early 1984. He received an A.B. degree from Asbury College, M.Ed. and Ed.S. degrees from the University of Louisville and doctor of Christian ministries *honoris causa* from Asbury College. He's done additional study at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary School of Church Music, Eastern Kentucky University and the Royal School of Church Music in England.



Presidential Search Update

Dear Friends,

The Presidential Search continues with intentionality and care, but without haste. One of the serendipities of our not yet having arrived at the completion of our task is that during our upcoming Faculty/Board retreat (Sept. 25-28), the board and faculty will be working together on our mission statement. This will culminate a yearlong process of work on this vitally important document.

Obviously our mission statement has huge implications for the kind of person we will need to lead our great institution. In other words, this may be perfect timing — Xairos time, Divine timing.

Join us, please, in praying for the Board/Faculty retreat and also that the confirming of a mission statement will be a key step in leading us to just the right person as president.

Dan Johnson

Dan Johnson, co-chair, search committee
Chair of the Board



On July 21, Dr. Ellsworth Kalas, president of Asbury Theological Seminary, and Dr. Sandra Gray, president of Asbury College, signed a document that provides for the college to use some of the facilities at the Florida campus for the college's new Florida program (see Dr. Kalas' letter on page 3).

Branding project under way

Recently, Asbury Seminary has recognized the need to solidify our brand. Who do people say we are and does this match up with who we say we are? As a part of a 12-point action plan designed by the board of trustees, the administration contracted with an outside research firm, Stamats, Inc. This firm specializes in higher education marketing and branding. Many of you may have recently participated in a research project conducted by Stamats, Inc. We are so grateful for your honest responses that will help us improve our branding efforts. (During this research project Stamats was a victim of the flooding in Iowa and was displaced from their offices.)

You will begin to see some of the results of this research in our new web site, which will launch this fall, and in our printed materials including the *Asbury Herald*. Again, we are so grateful for the participation of our donors, alumni, prospective students, students and faculty for helping to provide valuable information that highlights the best of who Asbury is and who we continue to be.



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The 2007 Preview Weekends were a great success. Many prospective students experienced firsthand "The Asbury experience," and of those who attended, 77 percent are currently enrolled or actively pursuing enrollment at Asbury Seminary.

If you know any prospective students who have not yet visited campuses, please invite them to take part in one of these weekends. Each weekend is meant to represent Asbury as a whole, so we

would encourage prospective students to attend the weekend which is most convenient for them in terms of location and schedule.

More information about the 2008 Fall Preview Weekends is posted on our website.

Thank you for your faithful support of Asbury. Our alumni and friends are our most effective recruiters!

The Admissions Staff

COME. LEARN. SERVE.

Natasha Cozart, Asbury Seminary Student

"My experiences at Asbury Seminary have been invaluable. I have seen exponential growth and transformation in my life – intellectually, spiritually and emotionally."



The Asbury Herald
VOLUME 118 NUMBER 3

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