



# STAFF QUARTERLY

## ASBURY *theological* SEMINARY

### New Staff

**Andrew Neely:** Associate Director of Community Formation (Full-Time)

**Dawn Kilian:** Director of Asbury Global Formation (Full-Time)

**Carol Matthews:** Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Assessment (Full-Time)

**Jordan Stanley:** Custodian (Full-Time)

**Jenny Burkhart:** Associate Vice President of Enrollment Services (Full-Time)

**Abi Sipe:** Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Formation (Full-Time)

**Andrea Wallace:** Development Officer (Part-Time)

### Staff Transitions

**Keith Cooper** from Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Chapel to Coordinator of Alumni and Church Relations (Full-Time)

**Maggie Maw** from Acquisitions, Copy Cataloging, and Library Loan Specialist to Manager of International Services (Full-Time)

**Kimberly Sowers** from Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the School of Theology and Formation to Manager of Academic Affairs for Asbury Global (Full-Time)

### Staff Council Purpose Statement

*The Staff Council exists to represent the perspective of the staff with regard to the employment experience & sense of community at ATS. The council will partner with the administration to make recommendations and present ideas for improvement of employment policies and programs relating to the work environment & community life.*

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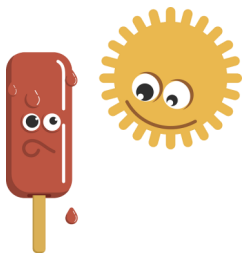
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## BIBLE VERSE

*Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”*

Psalms 126:2 (ESV)

## NOTEWORTHY



### Summer Events

Staff Council will be hosting a number of events this Summer.

Keep an eye on your email inbox for future details on opportunities to gather together to enjoy food and frozen treats.



### Staff Member of the Year Award

You might remember that the Staff Member of the Year Award was not announced at the Staff Appreciation Brunch in March.

Instead, the award will be announced and presented at the Awards Chapel on May 11th.

Please plan to be in attendance in Chapel that day so that we can celebrate with the recipient!



### Share with us!

Have you recently experienced a professional or personal event that you'd like to share with the Seminary Community?

Please email Staff Council at [staff.council@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:staff.council@asburyseminary.edu) for consideration in the next newsletter!

# STAFF NOTES

## STAFF APPRECIATION BRUNCH



On March 4th, Staff Council hosted the annual Staff Appreciation Brunch in the Sherman-Thomas Dining Hall. The event this year included a talent show section (many thanks to all of our participants) and also featured hundreds of individualized trophies created by Paula Hisel.

The morning ended up being a time of good fellowship and good food. You can use the links below to find a full-length recording of the event, as well as the standalone “StaffCenter” clip produced by our very own Ryan Staples.

You are all so very appreciated, and we look forward to doing this again in the future!

**Link: [Full-length Staff Talent Show](#)**

**Link: [ATSPN “StaffCenter” Clip](#)**

# JESSAMINE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## CIVIC AWARD



### **Congratulations to Brian U'Ren!**

Here are a few words from Dexter Porter (about Brian): This year's Civic Award is being presented to someone who has demonstrated selflessness by giving back to the community over the last 30 plus years. He has given his time and energy to Asbury Seminary, Wilmore United Methodist Church, Jessamine Youth Soccer Association, Jessamine County Wrestling, and many more individuals & businesses. This person is a go getter, and is willing to help out however he can if something is needed. From coaching youth soccer to church softball, to helping fix a freezer that has gone down for a local business, or to shoveling snow in the early morning so students can make it to class, this individual puts those around him first.

Have you recently experienced a professional or personal event that you'd like to share with the Seminary Community (award, journal publication, engagement, wedding, baby, etc.)?

Please email Staff Council at [staff.council@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:staff.council@asburyseminary.edu) for consideration for the next newsletter! (Note: We must receive permission from the person being featured before we share their news with the Seminary Community.)



**Wesley Waddle 10k5k is returning to Wilmore on April 30th!**  
**Mark your calendar and be sure to join us!**



**\$100 CASH presented to 1st place overall male and female!**

**Awards presented to 1st, 2nd, 3rd overall male and female, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place male and female per age group!**

**All participants receive a performance shirt, finisher's medal and a Starbucks post-race coffee & breakfast!**

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100% of donations will be given to [Refuge for Women](#), a nationally recognized organization that provides long-term care for women who have escaped human trafficking. Refuge for Women offers safe houses in central Kentucky and across the nation, equipping each woman to complete their program with a vision for their future and a life marked with dignity and hope.

# STAFF COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Otto Alvarez



Otto has served at Asbury Seminary on the Florida-Dunnam Campus for 9 and a half years! His official title is the “Florida Building and Grounds Foreman” but anyone who has worked him over the years will tell you that he does so much more than that title says.

Otto is a huge fan of Baseball and the NY Mets in particular!



## STAFF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Otto Alvarez  
Dan Errico  
Robin Ferraro  
Medine Keener  
Paula Hisel  
Shelby Rhea Strickland  
Variee Vanlaningham  
Stephanie Williams  
Barbara Antrobus, Facilitator

**YOUR STAFF COUNCIL IS JUST AN  
EMAIL AWAY!**

Feel free to send comments concerns and  
suggestions to  
[staff.council@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:staff.council@asburyseminary.edu)

# A Message to the Staff

## from Shelby Rhea Strickland of Staff Council

*Can you believe we are already nearly 100 days into the Year of the Staff? With our 100-year celebrations just months away and Year of the Staff being 100 days in, I, on behalf of the Staff Council, would like to take this opportunity to honor and encourage our staff who serve the Kingdom in hundreds of ways at Asbury Theological Seminary.*

When we think about the mission of Asbury Theological Seminary, it's plain to see the place of our students in our mission. The Seminary equips these students, future ministers and Christian leaders, to evangelize and spread scriptural holiness throughout the world. That happens in the classroom and in the residence halls, in the cafeteria and the library, on the sidewalks and in Canvas. It's also plain to see how faculty contribute to this mission. They are directly preparing, teaching, and forming these students. It's what our faculty do. I wonder if you might be anything like me, though? Do you sometimes lose sight of your role - the role of the staff - in this very same mission? When you walk past the mission statement written on our hallways, can you see your work and your efforts in it?

We all have our daily work. We clock in and we clock out. Some of us spend our entire days answering emails, scrubbing floors, cutting the grass, or attending meetings. Some of us process data, answer IT tickets, plan events or recruit students. And then these labors all begin again the next day, sometimes with no evidence of our work the day before. Whatever it is we spend our days doing here at Asbury, it is easy to lose sight of the larger work of God in our midst. When I look up from my screen or my to-do lists, occasionally I catch a glimpse of what the Holy Spirit is accomplishing through the staff for the sake of His Kingdom. But it's hard to put down in words, and can certainly be overshadowed by the experiences of students and faculty.

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# A Message to the Staff

## from Shelby Rhea Strickland of Staff Council (cont.)

Over time, I've begun to see our role as staff differently. We are an essential part of the mission of Asbury Theological Seminary - not an afterthought. We are all essential and distinct parts of the body of Christ. Day in and day out, each of us build systems, follow processes, create environments or employ the methods for which the mission of Asbury, and most importantly the mission of God, is carried out. Updating budgets, scheduling meetings, and providing support are the foundation on which Asbury Seminary functions. We would not be an existing and functioning institution without you and the work you do. This work is no less important in the Kingdom than teaching graduate classes, writing theological papers or even leading a Seminary. I hope as you go throughout this Year of the Staff, you find yourself with a deeper understanding of how your contributions at Asbury Theological Seminary are seen, cherished and respected.

*So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts. Suppose the foot says, "I am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body." By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. ... If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? ... The eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you!"... In fact, it is just the opposite. The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are the ones we can't do without. The parts that we think are less important we treat with special honor. ... But God has put together all the parts of the body. And he has given more honor to the parts that didn't have any. In that way, the parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of one another. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy. You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it. I Corinthians 12:14-27*



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