



# STAFF QUARTERLY

## ASBURY *theological* SEMINARY

### New Employees

**Jessica Kennedy:** Associate Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment (Full-Time)

**Jeremy Fulda:** Director of the Career and Calling Center (Full-Time)

**Cassie Palmer:** Application and Communication Specialist (Full-Time)

**John Ragsdale:** Associate Provost of Academic Affairs (Full-Time)

**Melanie Daniel:** Administrative Assistant, Office of the Chapel (Part-Time)

**Blaine Prewitt:** Associate Director of Admissions (Full-Time)

**Freda “Rachell” Sullivan:** Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the School of Theology and Formation (Full-Time)

**Matthew VanLaningham:** General Maintenance (Full-Time)

**Cindy Dean:** Director of Student Success (Full-Time)

**Abigail Luchtenburg:** Custodian (Full-Time)

**Christina Liu:** Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the ESJ School of Mission and Ministry (Full-Time)

**Kyle Miller:** Custodian (Full-Time)

**Tracey Farrell:** Director of Asbury Global Formation (Full-Time)

**Melissa Quinn:** Custodian (Part-Time)

**Stuart Thompson:** Technology Associate (Part-Time)

**Emilio Alvarez:** Associate Provost of Lifelong Learning (Full-Time)

**Jacqueline Smith:** Founding Dean of the School of Counseling and Pastoral Care (Full-Time)

**Ken Myers:** Assistant Professor (Full-Time)

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### 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.*



# STAFF QUARTERLY

## ASBURY *theological* SEMINARY

### New Employees (continued)

**Janet Dean:** Professor (Full-Time)

**Stephen Bailey:** Associate Professor (Full-Time)

**Andrew Graham:** Associate Professor (Full-Time)

### Employee Transitions

**Justin Mikesell** now Manager of the SPO (Full-Time)

**Jennifer Miller** now Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Center for Church Multiplication (Full-Time)

**Otto Alvarez** now Recruiter (Full-Time)

**Hector Nieves** now Enrollment Advisor (Full-Time)

**Steve Gober** now Director of Academic Affairs for the Asbury Latino Center (Full-Time)

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## Staff Council Purpose Statement

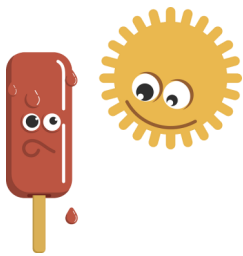
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## BIBLE VERSE

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

## NOTEWORTHY



### Frozen Treats Social

The upcoming Frozen Treats Staff Social will occur on Wednesday, July 20th at 1:30pm.

In order to avoid a meltdown of all of the treats ahead of time, please come to the lobby of McKenna chapel to pick up your treat.

We hope to see you there!



### Mid-Morning Snack

Staff Council will be hosting a Mid-Morning Snack on the green at 10:00am on Wednesday, August 17th.

We hope that you will come out to enjoy all sorts of morning snacks and some Drinklings coffee provided by the B.L. Fisher Library.

Last year this was a great time of fellowship, and we hope to see you again this year!



### 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

**Congratulations to Chris Bandy for receiving the  
14th annual Staff Member of the Year award!**



**Chris has served at Asbury for over 9 years!**

**Below is the reasoning that was submitted with his nomination:**

*"I would like to nominate Chris Bandy. He always goes above and beyond to get the job done. There hasn't been anything that he won't learn how to do. When we were short a HVAC guy, he jumped right in and starting learning how to work on them. From learning HVAC, electrical, building walls, welding, bricking, anything you can think of Bandy can do it or he will learn how to. He keeps our Old mules running. No matter time of night you call him he will be here to help get the job done. That's just a small note why think Bandy should be staff member of the year!"*

# STAFF NOTES

## Congratulations to Barb Jaeger for receiving the 1st annual Purah award!



**Barb retired this past Spring after serving at Asbury for over 28 years!**

### **Below is the reasoning for her nomination:**

*"For the past 28 years, Barb Jaeger has given her all to Asbury Seminary. She has worked in various departments and under several different supervisors, but her most recent role has been in the Assessment Office. She is a part of a team that works tirelessly to make sure that Asbury is on the right track with their assessment and accreditation work. She is the longest serving employee of the Assessment Office. While her work isn't always glamorous or well-known, that hasn't stopped her from doing her very best at what she does. She is passionate about maintaining ethics and integrity in her work. She is part of a team that keeps careful attention to detail. Asbury wouldn't be able to maintain their accreditation and students wouldn't be able to receive their degrees without this team.*

*They probably also don't realize just how big of a heart she has for the students. She regularly mentors students as they make their way through school by encouraging them, feeding them, introducing them to local places, and just being there for them. She has been an incredible friend to many staff and students on campus, and all of our lives are better for it. It is easy to see her passion for the Lord when she speaks. She uses that passion in many ways other than her seminary work, including cooking, baking, and through craft projects.*

*She embodies the true spirit of what God has called us to be as Christians and it is my distinct honor to nominate her for the inaugural Purah award."*



# STAFF NOTES

**Student Services would like to say THANK YOU to the Facilities Department for their support during the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Wesley Waddle 10k5k!**



**Congratulations on winning Qdoba in appreciation of your department's involvement in the event!**

**We are less without you,  
Robin Ferraro  
(race director)**

# STAFF NOTES

**Staff Council would like to say THANK YOU to the faculty who helped set up and tear down for the staff lunch with the Board of Trustees.**



**Faculty who helped set up: Jonathan Powers, Jay Moon, Steve Ybarrola, and Kima Pachuau**

**Faculty who helped tear down: Ruth Anne Reese, Ellen Marmon, Jonathan Powers, and Jim Hampton**

# STAFF NOTES



**Our fellow staff member, Sheila Lovell wrote a book during the widespread COVID-19 quarantine!**

**The Jessamine County Public Library (JCPL) wrote an article about her that can be found [HERE](#).**

**JCPL also recorded a video interview with Sheila about the book that can be accessed on YouTube [HERE](#).**

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.)



# STAFF COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome to Staff Council, Jennifer Miller!



Jen Miller may have spent her early years in Illinois, but she considers herself a local girl. She graduated from Jessamine County High School and went to Asbury College. Starting her career as a nurse in the ICU at University of KY, she went on to raise 5 kids, then spent 8 years in marketing before coming to Asbury Seminary. She has an entrepreneurial spirit and a git-r-done attitude.

She has worked as a manager in the Beeson School of Practical Theology for the last couple of years and now can be found in the new Center for Church Multiplication. Jen wants to know you, so say “Hi” if you see her around campus.



## STAFF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Otto Alvarez  
Dan Errico  
Robin Ferraro  
Medine Keener  
Paula Hisel  
Jennifer Miller  
Variee Vanlaningham  
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 Dr. Gregg Okesson, Provost of Asbury Seminary

Kenyan theologian, John Mbiti, is famous for describing African communal identity through the phrase: “I am because we are; and because we are, I am.” This saying captures quite a bit of truth for the ways that individuals are shaped by community, and communities shaped by individuals.

In America, we place extraordinary focus on the individual: their gifts, education, or anything we deem spectacular. We love our heroes! What I like about Mbiti’s quote is that he doesn’t neglect the person. The individual is not swallowed up by the community. Rather, the individual and community interrelate with each other in a dynamic dance.

Christian community is like that. You can read about it in those biblical passages that talk about spiritual gifts (Rom. 12, 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4). The Holy Spirit is the one who brings the individuals into a new form of community; then the community, by the Spirit, forms each of us as persons.

Asbury Theological Seminary is a “*Community Called*”! There are no solitary heroes here. We are only as strong as each one of us doing his or her service, through the Holy Spirit. And here’s the tremendous thing: we will be together for all eternity!

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# A Message to the Staff from Dr. Gregg Okesson, Provost of Asbury Seminary (cont.)

I walk around the campus or visit our instructional sites and see staff like you who serve the Lord tirelessly. Whether it's physical plant, LITS, EMT, the business office, academic offices, formation, advancement, or communications—I see images of Jesus Christ everywhere I go. And that's the mystery: it is not necessarily just the job you do (no matter how important that is), but Christ's presence in and through you to others. That's Christian community!

As faculty, we are deeply grateful for each of you! Your service at Asbury is more than a task or a job. You shape who we are becoming. Of course, that includes your day-to-day role and all the gifts that God has given you, but it is so much more. You are formational to who the Holy Spirit is calling us to be as a *Community Called*. We need you!

Let me conclude with a beautiful quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer in *Life Together*. He says it far better than I could:

Our community with one another consists solely in what Christ has done to both of us. This is true not merely at the beginning, as though in the course of time something else were to be added to our community; it remains so for all the future and to all eternity. We have one another only through Christ, but through Christ we do have one another, wholly, for eternity. p. 14.

During this "Year of the Staff," we thank you for your tireless service. And even more importantly, we celebrate the ways you are growing us into the fullness of Jesus Christ.

- Gregg Okesson



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