



New Employees

Abraham Livingston Devaraj: Communications Project Liaison & International Applications Processor

Elliott Dickinson: Enrollment Advisor, Wilmore

Kristin Dingess: HR Payroll Specialist

Victoria Hall: Asbury Inn Front Desk Staff

Susan Hees: Student Assessment, Research, & Analytics Specialist

David Lian: LITS PIT Associate

Kylie McCormick: Director of Community Formation

Greg McElyea: Assistant Director of Asbury Global Formation

Allan Varghese Meloottu: Manager of International Services

Anna Okesson: Asbury Inn Front Desk Staff

Chriss Rooney: Director of Student Services

Brandon Rudd: LITS Assistant Dean of User Experience & Service Analytics

Lauren Schaupp: Visit and Event Coordinator

Mimi Rodriguez Thompson: Enrollment Advisor, Orlando

Sampson Tieku: Asbury Inn Night Auditor

John Tomlinson: Custodian

Kevin Watson: Director of Academic Growth and Formation, Tulsa

Kristina Whiteman: ARP Administrative Assistant

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Staff Council Purpose Statement

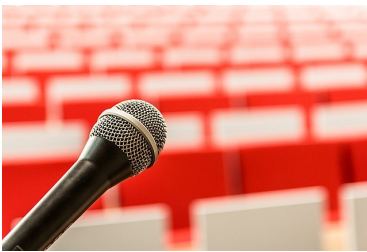
The Staff Council exists to represent the perspective of the staff with regard to the employment experience & sense of community at ATS. The council will partner with the administration to make recommendations and present ideas for improvement of employment policies and programs relating to the work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

BIBLE VERSE

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting

Psalm 139:23 - 24(ESV)

NOTEWORTHY



Staff & Faculty Chapel and FunFest

Mark your calendars for
August 23rd, from 11:00am
to 3:30pm.

At 11:00am, Staff and Faculty
are invited to a Chapel service
that will be led by ATS Staff
members.

After Chapel, there will be
several hours of food, fun, and
fellowship.

Please keep an eye out for
more details to come in the
future!



Staff “Grab n Go” Breakfast

Please join us on July 19th at
9:00am in Royal Auditorium
for a grab and go breakfast for
the staff.

This is a great opportunity to
say “hi” to some of those staff
members that work in other
buildings and that you may not
see that often.



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 for
consideration in the next
newsletter!



ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

FITNESS

Empower. Encourage. Equip.

The Health & Wellness team is currently accepting applications for their Fall 2023 PT Scholarship program. If you are interested in being considered, please email us at fitness@asburyseminary.edu with a short bio outlining why you would like to be chosen. *Please note that all scholarship recipients are asked to participate in the filming of a video testimony near the end of their program.* We hope you find encouragement by reading about a fellow staff member's journey from last semester.

Personal Training Scholarship Testimony

What is your relationship with exercise?

Have you been happily married for decades and consider workouts to be as normal a part of your schedule as eating and sleeping? Are you newlyweds still in the honeymoon phase, flush with the permanence of weight machines and dumbbells in your life? Are you dating, eager for the opportunities you have to spend time on the treadmill or elliptical? Or have you just begun to casually hang out, trying to determine whether or not you're compatible as you ride your third quarter of a mile on a stationary bike?

Four months ago, I would have been in none of those categories. I was more like the person perpetually on the fringes of love, having flirted with exercise and even gone on several dates in a row, but with my relationships never lasting longer than two weeks. I wasn't a player, spending time on pursuits other than exercise when things got difficult or challenging; rather, I found myself quickly weighed down by the cares of life to the extent that I simply did not have anything left to give to the emotional investment required of exercise.

I've been overweight for much of my life – since middle school, really. Those excess pounds had been hanging around for awhile, and I'd grown comfortable with them to the point that I accepted them as a way of life and resigned myself to their perpetual presence. Occasionally, I'd make a foray into the exercise game again – maybe once or twice a year – but soon felt hopeless enough to stop seeing the gym altogether.

At first, when the proposition was made, I thought it was the most improbable concept I'd ever heard.

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Me? Work out twice a week? For a whole hour each time? With a personal trainer, allowing someone I don't even know to see one of the biggest areas of weakness and failure in my life? You've got to be kidding. However, after taking some time to think and pray about it, I sensed God gently convicting me that this was His next step for me. I also talked it over with two trusted individuals in my life, and they echoed my most private thoughts: the Lord Himself seemed to be extending this offer to me, so how could I not accept?

So, I signed up for those sessions near the beginning of the spring semester.

And I have not looked back.

One of my biggest fears was that the trainer would push me far beyond my ability level. However, nothing could have been further from the truth. My low skill set has been treated with dignity and respect. I've been afforded the opportunity to slowly grow in the amount of weight and number of repetitions I've been asked to manage. And as my muscles have developed and my body has reshaped, I've seen – wonder of wonders! – a strength flow into and out of me that I have never known.

Another benefit to these sessions (which have been paired with a healthy eating plan) has been weight loss. But even more exciting than seeing that number on the scale go down, I feel great both physically and spiritually: physically because my body is finally being worked the way it should have been for years, and spiritually because I am at long last being obedient in an area that God has been speaking to me about for ages.

If you're not sure you want the level of commitment required by a semester's worth of personal training sessions, why not just sign up for a single session? The first one is free for staff. Or, you could get some friends together and have an exercise group date. If you know that personal training is definitely something you want to start, you could buy a 10-pack of personal training sessions, of which the first one is also free. Regardless which option you choose, your body will thank you – and so will your mind and heart.

Now when I think about exercise, I experience nothing but happy thoughts and a warm glow. Returning to the relationship categories mentioned at the beginning of this testimony, I would currently describe myself in the newlywed phase – in fact, I just bought another 20 personal training sessions – and I definitely see this relationship going the distance. Talk about a far cry from where I started! But, when we let the Lord do the work He wants to do in our lives, He turns our mourning into dancing and clothes us with gladness (Psalm 30:11).

And that's something I want to be married to till death do us part.

BEST CHRISTIAN WORKPLACES UPDATE

Just in case you have missed some of the most recent emails that have been sent out to staff concerning the Best Christian Workplaces process, below is a brief summary of some of the key information:

- Our consultant Colby Burke offered a number of days and times for staff to attend “Discovery Groups”. During these groups, Colby gathered more information from staff and faculty in order to dig deeper into the BCW results that we had received. You can view the themes that Colby pulled from these meetings [HERE](#).
- A cross-functional team of staff, faculty, and administrators has been formed to work with Colby in order to generate next steps and a path forward towards improving the culture here at Asbury Seminary.
- Two members of this cross-functional team (Andy McFarland and Ellen Marmon) recorded a short introduction video for our staff community. If you have not already done so, you can view that video [HERE](#) (password is **BCW2023**).
- There is an All-Community Meeting scheduled for September 11th @ 1:00pm. At this meeting, the staff and faculty will be presented with the work that has been done so far by the cross-functional team and with the initial steps going forward.



STAFF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Otto Alvarez
Joel Calicott
Keith Cooper
Dan Errico
Robin Ferraro
Medine Keener
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