NOW
IS OUR TIME

making the most of every opportunity

Col 4:5b

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www.abhe.org
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What an appropriate passage to frame our reality in 2021. It’s from this passage that we’ve selected ABHE’s 74th Annual Meeting theme – *Now is Our Time; Making the Most of Every Opportunity*. God has called us into this important work for His glory. I am mindful of the 63,909 students preparing to fulfill God’s call on their lives through studying at one of our 150 member institutions. How we prepare this generation of students to proclaim the mystery of Christ has become complex. This stands in contrast to the simple and clear message of the Gospel. Paul reminds us to make the most of every opportunity, seasoning our conversation with grace. Why? So that others may see Christ through us!

As I reflect over this past year, I am struck with all that has been accomplished. Quite frankly, I find it difficult to put into words the full range of reflections I want to share! This President’s Report is my attempt to capture from my seat this past year with a glimpse to the year ahead.

**THANK YOU** for the part you play in this growing movement.

*Now Is Our Time,*

Philip E. Dearborn, Ed.D.
ABHE President
SUCCESSFUL AND SEAMLESS LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

July 1, 2020 was my first official day as ABHE’s President. Leading up to that day were months of preparation that allowed for a smooth transition in leadership. Dr. Ralph Enlow was instrumental in helping me ramp up for this new ministry assignment. He was the ultimate encourager for my family and me as we accepted the call to lead ABHE.

A COMPETENT AND PROFESSIONAL TEAM

ABHE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

ABHE is blessed to have men and women volunteering to lead the Association and the Commission on Accreditation. Countless hours are spent carrying out the mission of ABHE, ensuring we provide a context for our members to flourish. Dr. Ron Kroll and I are thankful for the selfless leadership on display through every engagement.

ABHE TEAM

A team of 11 employees work hard to serve our membership. We gather once a month for an all-staff meeting. These are precious times for us as we lead ABHE. This year we were able to add Darby Blanchard to the team to assist Carol Dibble. Darby has adjusted well and is contributing significantly in carrying the communications workload.

We also added Dr. Michael Jackson as a part-time employee to the Commission staff. Michael focuses on research and the reviewing of substantive changes.

2021 marks the retirement year for Dr. Ron Kroll. Having served the Commission for the past decade, Ron has led with integrity and excellence. He is well respected among our membership, USDE and CHEA. We are all thankful for Ron’s dedication to serve the Lord through ABHE.

COA DIRECTOR SEARCH

Under the direction of Commission Chair, Dr. Kevin Hester, a search committee has been working since early fall 2020 to identify ABHE’s next COA Director. I am pleased to report that Dr. Lisa Beatty has accepted the call to be ABHE’s COA Director. Dr. Beatty has extensive service in higher education and higher education administration. She is currently the Academic Dean at Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa where she has served since 1992. She previously served on the Commission on Accreditation as a commissioner and as Chair. She is currently a member of the ABHE Board of Directors. Dr. Beatty will begin this role on July 1, 2021.
OUR CURRENT REALITY

COVID-19
We continue to work through the ramifications of COVID-19 on our membership. It’s fair to say that we’ve all been impacted in some way. Personally and professionally I’ve heard many stories of disruption and pain. Yet amid all that we’ve witnessed, we have seen God’s grace and providence. In our Annual Report we noted about an 8% drop in fall 2020 new students across our membership.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNREST
In addition to the impacts of COVID-19, we also faced significant social and political unrest. We are working hard to provide resources for you use as you lead on your campuses. As I’ve said in several communications throughout the year, I believe we are uniquely positioned to proactively engage the issues. We don’t have the luxury to passively ignore them in hopes that they go away. True change can only happen through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. And since we are a spiritual movement focused on the fulfillment of the Great Commission, we have opportunity to make a lasting difference in the communities around us.

USDE & CHEA RECOGNITIONS
ABHE’s recognition with the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is up for renewal in 2021. The 16-month process was initiated in September 2019 and the CHEA Board of Directors acted on January 25, 2021 to defer action on ABHE’s request for one year and request additional information in four areas. CHEA released new standards in January 2019 that were significantly more prescriptive than previous standards, and ABHE is one of the first agencies to be evaluated under these new standards, which call for more specification in the expectations to which accreditors hold their institutions, communication with quality assurance entities in other countries, evidence that institutions provide accessible and meaningful information on outcomes to the public, and greater critical evaluation of how the accreditor assesses its own performance in promoting academic quality. For institutions, the most notable of these expectations is that all institutions will need to evidence that information regarding performance and student achievement (outcomes) are easily accessible to the general public, accurate, and complete (including cohort data/statistics) on their websites. Commission staff will be assisting institutions to ensure their websites meet these expectations over the coming months.

ABHE’s petition for renewal of recognition with the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) was submitted in September 2020. A USDE staff analyst will review ABHE’s documentation, attend Commission meetings, observe field evaluations, and submit a draft report by November 2021. ABHE will have 180 days to respond to any compliance issues in the report before appearing before the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) for a decision on renewal of recognition in July 2022.
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
God has been gracious to ABHE over the past 18 months through the generosity of many donors, especially considering these pandemic conditions. After launching the 3 Pillars Campaign in the Summer of 2019 with a goal of $780,000, the total of gifts and pledges reached just over $820,000 as of 8/31/20. Gifts to date total $534,736 with an aggregate pledge balance of $287,250 payable over the next two years.

Another fundraising focus has been FY21 Sponsorships with a total to date of $173,000. - up from just over $86,000 last year. The 2021 Leadership Development Offering is just being launched with a goal of $40,000.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT DATA HIGHLIGHTS
At the end of my report are summary data points from our 2020 Annual Report. Here are some general observations:

- Year to year, headcount enrollment has increased 7.9% and FTE has increased 5.6%.
- Year to year, credits sold has increased 3.1%.
- Year to year, new traditional undergraduate enrollment is down 8%.
- The fastest growing sector is graduate education increasing 33.9%.
- The 2014 first time student completion rate is 50% (at 150% of program length).
- First time student retention rate from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020 is 65%.
- A total of 6,226 faculty members serve across all ABHE institutions.

OUR FUTURE

COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
CVOID-19 provided an opportunity for us to convert our Weber Conference Center to a Zoom Room. All our fall leadership events were offered in a hybrid format. We saw a 67% increase in attendance across our events. This included leaders from 71% of ABHE institutions. As we look to our Leadership Development events for this year, we are adding a workshop focused on online learning. We will also launch the third cohort of our Board Governance training.

BRAND NEW BIBLE KNOWLEDGE EXAM
Thanks to a generous gift, we partnered with CLT to redesign and deliver our “Bible Knowledge Exam.” I am pleased to report that thus far, 1,773 exams have been administered with an average score of 70 (out of 125 questions). 75% of test takers were first year students. Most institutions plan to use a pre-test/post-test methodology to measure learning over time.
STRATEGIC PLANNING
This past Fall, the ABHE Board of Directors took the courageous step to launch a strategic planning process to vision a preferred future. The heavy lifting of the planning will take place this summer. Our plan is to host Town Hall Meetings this Fall across North America and Canada to gather input from you, our membership, to finalize the themes that emerge to bracket our Strategic Plan. We will unveil our Strategic Plan at our 75th Annual Meeting next February 2022.

VALUING PARTNERSHIPS
It is becoming abundantly clear that we will need to continue to grow our relationships with fraternal organizations. The external pressures we are currently facing will need to be navigated arm-in-arm with others. Conversations with ADF, IACE, CCCU, and NAICU are just a handful of examples of a future that leverages the strengths in partnership.

ABHE’S 75TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR
At the conclusion of our 74th Annual Meeting, we will formally launch ABHE’s 75th Anniversary year. This year, we’ll have the opportunity to celebrate 75 years of faithfully advancing biblical higher education. When we gather February 16-18, 2022, we will culminate the year with a big celebration! I look forward to seeing many of you there.
ABHE BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP

150  Membership Total
112  COA Accredited
   5  COA Programmatically Accredited
   3  Accredited-Other
  12  COA Candidate
  18  COA Applicant

ENROLLMENT

63,909  Total 2019–20 Unduplicated Headcount (all terms)
50,220  Fall 2020 Total Enrollment Headcount
40,882  Fall 2020 Total Enrollment FTE
  6,484  Total new traditional undergraduate students for fall 2020
  13,286  Total graduate students (all terms)

MEMBERSHIP FINANCES

$2,012,307,829  Total Assets
$1,313,359,912  Net Assets
$710,883,508  Educational & General Expenses
$271,508,726  Gift Income
$347,217,681  Long Term Debt
$349,065,764  Undergraduate Tuition Revenue
$112,255,564  Graduate Tuition Revenue
$19,596,321  Student Aid (Funded)
$119,756,307  Student Aid (Unfunded)
   35%  Average Undergraduate Discount Rate
   16%  Average Graduate Discount Rate
   30%  Overall Average Discount Rate

2019–2020 FINANCIAL REPORT
2020 ABHE ANNUAL REPORT DATA SUMMARY

Below is a summary of several data points from ABHE’s 2020 Annual Report. The data represents reporting from all 150 members served by ABHE.

**ENROLLMENT (FALL 2020 SEMESTER)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall FT Undergrad Heads</th>
<th>Fall PT Undergrad Heads</th>
<th>Fall FT Undergrad Hours Sold</th>
<th>Fall PT Undergrad Hours Sold</th>
<th>Fall FT Grad</th>
<th>Fall PT Grad</th>
<th>Fall FT Grad Hours Sold</th>
<th>Fall PT Grad Hours Sold</th>
<th>Fall TOTAL Grad Heads</th>
<th>Fall TOTAL Grad Heads</th>
<th>Fall TOTAL Grads</th>
<th>Fall TOTAL Grads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>24,637</td>
<td>33,528</td>
<td>69,370</td>
<td>30,488</td>
<td>5,240</td>
<td>5,701</td>
<td>11,041</td>
<td>26,106</td>
<td>8,241</td>
<td>49,204</td>
<td>38,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>23,184</td>
<td>33,750</td>
<td>69,877</td>
<td>29,848</td>
<td>6,490</td>
<td>6,796</td>
<td>13,286</td>
<td>40,899</td>
<td>11,034</td>
<td>50,220</td>
<td>40,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Change</td>
<td>-1,453</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>-1,229</td>
<td>9,907</td>
<td>-620</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>1,095</td>
<td>2,245</td>
<td>2,794</td>
<td>1,016</td>
<td>2,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>-5.9%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>-3.2%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENROLLMENT (2019-20 FISCAL YEAR)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year Unduplicated Undergrad Heads</th>
<th>Fiscal Year Unduplicated Graduate Heads</th>
<th>Fiscal Year TOTAL Unduplicated Heads</th>
<th>Fiscal Year Unduplicated Graduate Credits Sold</th>
<th>Fiscal Year Unduplicated Graduate Credits Sold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>45,635</td>
<td>13,613</td>
<td>59,248</td>
<td>863,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>46,993</td>
<td>16,916</td>
<td>63,909</td>
<td>863,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Change</td>
<td>1,358</td>
<td>3,303</td>
<td>4,661</td>
<td>1,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS SUMMARY (FALL 2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Completed Apps</th>
<th>Fall Admitted</th>
<th>Fall Enrolled</th>
<th>Conversion Rate</th>
<th>Applicant Completion Rate</th>
<th>Yield Rate</th>
<th>1st Year Returning for 2nd year</th>
<th>1st Year Returning for 2nd year</th>
<th>1st Year Retention Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13,941</td>
<td>12,139</td>
<td>7,068</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>6,519</td>
<td>4,291</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14,610</td>
<td>10,687</td>
<td>6,484</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>5,189</td>
<td>3,371</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>669</td>
<td>-1,452</td>
<td>-584</td>
<td>(+) 2%</td>
<td>(+) 12%</td>
<td>(+) 3%</td>
<td>-1,330</td>
<td>-920</td>
<td>(-) 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>-12%</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>-21%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NON-TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS SUMMARY (FALL 2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall TOTAL Apps</th>
<th>Fall Enrolled</th>
<th>Conversion Rate</th>
<th>Eligible 1st Year Returning for 2nd year</th>
<th>Actual 1st Year Returning for 2nd year</th>
<th>1st Year Retention Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>7,946</td>
<td>4,179</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>2,792</td>
<td>1,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>4,649</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>2,848</td>
<td>1,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Change</td>
<td>1,874</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>(-) 6%</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>-11%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMPLETION RATES (AT 150% OF PROGRAM LENGTH)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2014 Full-time FTF Completers (@ 150%)</th>
<th>Completion Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>5,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>5,924</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FACULTY DATA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty &gt;50% Teaching Load</th>
<th>Faculty &lt;50% Teaching Load</th>
<th>Faculty w/ no Teaching Load</th>
<th>Part-time/Adjunct Faculty</th>
<th>TOTAL Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,301</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>4,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE ABHE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE EXAM

This prime assessment tool for Bible knowledge is a Complimentary Benefit to all member institutions of ABHE for assessment of all students. Below are the stats from Fall 2020:

PERFORMANCE BY CATEGORY BY CLASS (FALL 2020)

PERFORMANCE BY TEACHING BY CLASS (FALL 2020)

FALL 2020 STATS
Total Submissions
1773
Avg Score
70
Top Score
123

REGISTRATIONS BY CLASS (FALL 2020)

In Partnership with Classic Learning Initiative
Who created the Classic Learning Test
CLT WANT TO LEARN MORE? Visit the Bible Knowledge Exam/CLT Exhibit Booth #101

THANKS TO A GENEROUS GIFT FROM HOBBY LOBBY
ABHE SENIOR FELLOWS

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Teach Us to Pray
LUKE 11:1

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