

# ECHO



LANCASTER  
BIBLE COLLEGE  
CAPITAL SEMINARY &  
GRADUATE SCHOOL



Adapting Education  
to a Changing World



# ECHO

This magazine is produced three times a year to provide students, alumni, parents, friends and donors with news from the institution, articles connecting our readers with our community and features on relevant Christian thought.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School exists to educate Christian students to think and live a biblical worldview and to proclaim Christ by serving Him in the Church and society.

## VISION

Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School will be a premier learning community that intentionally develops the head, heart and hands of servant ministry leaders for global impact.

## ACCREDITATION

Accredited through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the Association for Biblical Higher Education Commission on Accreditation, LBC | Capital is also approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Association of Christian Schools International. LBC | Capital is approved to operate in Pennsylvania, Florida and Maryland. LBC | Capital is authorized to offer online programs in all states where our online students reside.

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All Is Fine



COVER: Choral rehearsal and class take on a new look and feel for Dr. Robert Bigley, Director of Choral and Vocal Studies.

Photo by Rebekah Hill ('19)

## READ THE ECHO ONLINE

Did you know we have an online version of the Echo? Check it out: [lbc.edu/echo](http://lbc.edu/echo)

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# LBC | Capital Wel Dr. Thomas

By Megan Rogers ('22), Isaac Barrow  
Professor, Communication

**D**r. Thomas L. Kiedis (Tommy) became the sixth president of LBC | Capital on February 1, 2020, succeeding Dr. Peter W. Teague who served as president from 1999 -2020. An inauguration service will be held September 25, 2020.

Dr. Kiedis and his wife, Shannan, have been married for 39 years and have six children and 22 grandchildren. Until recently they lived in Boca Raton, Florida, where Dr. Kiedis served as senior pastor of Spanish River Church for ten years. They are now part of the Lancaster community.

Dr. Kiedis holds a PhD in leadership from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a DMin from Fuller Theological Seminary. He is not new to LBC | Capital as he served as a member of the Corporation since 2012 and as an adjunct faculty member and lead mentor for the MA in Ministry church planting concentration. Before pastoring at Spanish River Church, Dr. Kiedis was the Dean of the Chapel and Assistant Professor of Ministry at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Dr. Kiedis has a passion for equipping leaders and sharing insights through [tommykiedis.com](http://tommykiedis.com). He shares devotionals, podcasts, book reviews, leadership resources, and photographic journals on these four pages:

**LEADER'S LIFE AND WORK:** "Helping leaders maximize and multiply their one and only life."

# comes President s L. Kiedis

('23) and Jessica Whitmore, MA, Adjunct  
& Media Arts department

**ON MY WALK:** "Helping you capture reading's 'AHA!' moments so you can grow and help others."

**DON'T ASK THE FISH:** "Learning to see all of life through the lens of Scripture."

**CARSAFARI:** "A trip, especially on the back roads of America, to hunt, observe, and photograph the automotive unique."

Dr. Kiedis was warmly welcomed by the LBC | Capital community. "I've known Tommy for approximately 10 years," shares Dr. James "Doc" Ayers ('80), mentoring professor and director of TraveLearn within LBC | Capital's department of Church & Ministry Leadership. "My appreciation for him continues to grow. After his passion for knowing and loving God, his commitment to his family shines brightly. I am confident that he will raise the bar for competent and godly leadership for LBC | Capital in the coming months and paint a clear visionary picture of a preferred future."

Students are also encouraged and excited about what is next for the College under Dr. Kiedis' leadership. Many believe this new chapter will be filled with a renewed sense of purpose and vision for the school.

"Dr. Kiedis demonstrates what it means to be a servant leader," says Rusty Risteen ('23), studying Early Education and Business. "Dr. Kiedis conveyed [in chapel] his respect for President Teague and his thankfulness for the picture of what it means to be a leader that he can follow. It was selfless of him."

## Wondering what the LBC | Capital community is saying about Dr. Kiedis?

*"President Kiedis is the type of leader that values the voices of diverse people. After having a conversation with him, it was evident his passion for empowering staff members is a core value."* - Jael K.D.L.V. Chambers, Church & Ministry Leadership Programs Coordinator, Philadelphia location

*"When I heard that LBC | Capital selected Dr. Kiedis as their next president, I couldn't have been more pleased and confident that the man they chose would be able to lead this institution in the direction God wants it to go. He is one of the most humble, capable, approachable, and forward-thinking leaders of our time."* - William Torres ('19), MAM in Church Planting, Boca Raton location

*"He had me at Dolphins fan."* - Kara Huber ('23), Health & Physical Education, Lancaster campus

*"I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Kiedis when he visited my colleagues and I at the Washington, DC location... His desire to know us beyond our specific roles was well received by everyone. My first impression of Dr. Kiedis is that he is just as personally concerned with each one of us, as he is with the collective mission of LBC | Capital."* - Steven Taylor, Director of Community Engagement & Enrollment, Washington DC location

*"He seems like he wants to get to know you on a very personal level. I'm excited to get to know him. I appreciate how he holds the door at chapel and walks around the dining hall."* - Aleah Heyworth ('21), TESOL, Lancaster campus

*"My first impression of Dr. Kiedis as president was that he is approachable, practical, and one that leads by example. He also believes LBC | Capital is a family committed to working together as a team."* - Francina Latimore ('20), Biblical Studies, Philadelphia location

*"He is full of energy and a joy to be around."* - Noah Floge ('23), Health & Physical Education, Lancaster campus

Tommy and his wife, Shannan, with their grandchildren





A portrait of Dr. Thomas L. Kiedis, a middle-aged man with grey hair and a beard, smiling. He is wearing a dark grey suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is standing in front of a bookshelf filled with books. The background is slightly blurred.

# The President Speaks

BY DR. THOMAS L. KIEDIS  
[president@lbc.edu](mailto:president@lbc.edu)

# Showing Up in our Finest Hour

**T**his is my first letter to Echo readers as President of LBC | Capital. My first weeks in office were nothing short of idyllic. I spoke to students in chapel, ate lunch in the Olewine Dining Commons, got to know the vice presidents, met with academic department chairs, attended a faculty meeting and met with the Board of Trustees. Everything was great.

Then, 45 days into my presidency, a sub-microscopic invader took the world hostage. COVID-19 changed everything.

Life at LBC | Capital was upended in a matter of days. In fact, life for just about everyone in the United States was upended! Stay-at-home orders, remote working, remote learning, and remote socializing became our reality. Our towns, counties, and states are mobilizing for a healthcare crisis of unprecedented proportions. The nightly news looks like scenes from a movie—and a scary movie at that.

On page 7, you'll read about how LBC | Capital responded. Like Nehemiah of old, our team prayed and took action. Friends, our faculty and staff turned on the proverbial dime. They worked selflessly and tirelessly as educational first responders. Professors, site directors, coaches, dining services, marketers, tutors, recruiters, and so many others who comprise this amazing community pitched in to serve our students. LBC | Capital moved from casting a vision of being remote ready to remote teaching and learning in a matter of days. What makes our team's selflessness even more pronounced is that they did this with the weight of concern for their own families resting on their shoulders.

Our students have been equally amazing. We have to put ourselves in their shoes to understand. A senior's final semester, gone! An athlete's competition and

camaraderie, gone! Time to engage faculty you love, gone! Slow moments over a cup of coffee with a fellow student, gone! Moments of combined chapel praise, gone! We have talked a lot this semester about the difference between quoting Romans 8:28 and living Romans 8:28. Our students (all of us for that matter) are learning to quote and live the reality that God is working everything together for our good and His glory.

Yes, it has been an unsettling time for all of us—including our alumni, friends, supporting churches and businesses. As I am writing, the number of new COVID-19 cases is still rising daily. The number of unemployment claims is climbing even faster. Businesses and nonprofits alike face reduced revenue and growing budget deficits. So how do we as Christians hold it together? At the end of his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul writes, "Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong," (1 Corinthians 16:13). Those words speak as powerfully to us as they did to that church:

- Be on your guard — Guard against living in the narrative of fear.
- Stand firm in the faith — Jesus is in control.
- Be courageous — We may need to self-isolate, but we don't live in isolation.
- Be strong — Determine to help where and when you can.

Because we know Jesus upholds the world by His powerful word, we refuse to live in fear. These are tough times, but God's people have a way of reflecting His goodness to a world in need because they embrace His strong word and trust that He is our Good God. The challenge of COVID-19 showed our LBC | Capital family at its finest—choosing to trust God in the midst of challenge and change, in the midst of fear and fatigue. I am one very grateful college president.



Dr. Kiedis stands with athletic coaches before filming a video for student-athletes.



## LBC | Capital's Response to



Jena Sanford ('21)



Clockwise from top left: Lydia Dice ('22), Catherine Brewster ('21), Arianna Dykshoorn ('22) and Kylee McGuinness ('21)

**W**hat does a college do when, halfway through a semester, an unseen virus drives students off campus, cancels athletics, takes them away from “real” face-time with peers and professors, and forces them into a virtual learning environment?

“We are building a plane in the air,” said Tricia Wilson, interim provost of LBC | Capital, during a faculty meeting on March 16.

COVID-19 changed a lot of things for a lot of people, including the community of LBC | Capital, perhaps most drastically, its students. Against a backdrop of escalating government restrictions that affected their own families and communities, and with just over one week to prepare, the faculty of LBC | Capital got to work on the seemingly impossible task of becoming “remote ready” in all aspects by March 23—and for the remainder of the spring semester.

### PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST

“Inside of a relatively short period of time, I lost most of the last quarter of my junior year,” said Arianna Dykshoorn ('22), an Early Childhood Education major at LBC | Capital. “I lost the chance to spend time with [my roommates], the prayer retreat, the Spring Gala, an internship, a tutoring job, countless memories I would have made with friends who are now far away, and so much more.” Dykshoorn also noted that with Pennsylvania’s increased restrictions, her world grew even smaller, allowing her to leave her apartment only for walks and essential trips to the grocery store—something many people have experienced during this pandemic.

“This is sad. This hurts. This is not the way I wanted it to be. Grief is real, and grief is okay,” she said. “But the grief, disappointment, emptiness, and loss mean nothing if they do not serve as a giant

reminder that I was never meant to be satisfied with the things of this earth. [It] gives purpose to my loss.”

For some students, face-to-face time with professors and classmates was already limited, as is the case for many of our doctoral and graduate students. This latest development meant making just a few more adjustments, like sharing a computer with children who are now doing their schoolwork online, too. “For us, it was life as normal, with the exception of missing out on the best part of the class, the residency,” shared Leigh Ober ('21), who is pursuing her Master of Divinity. “The bulk of our class is online, so not much has changed. Personally, I had to schedule with my 10-year-old as to who gets to use the computer for school and what times we need to be online. It’s a unique thing to schedule your day with a 10-year-old who has responsibilities online now, too.”

Other students were forced to cancel travel plans to campus, like Trevor M. Crenshaw ('21), a PhD student. “I had everything planned for my trip from Florence, Alabama, to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for my time in PhD residency. I booked my flights, rental car and hotel for six days,” he shared. “I pondered the things that I would say to all my cohort members upon seeing them face to face again. However, I did not plan for COVID-19 and the email I received, relaying the sudden move from face-to-face mode to remote residency via Zoom. Although I missed seeing my fellow cohort members in person, I could still see their faces, hear their voices, and dialogue with my professors and fellow cohort members through Zoom,” explained Crenshaw. “Even though words cannot adequately express my appreciation for our time in residency, I thank God for LBC | Capital, my professors and fellow cohort members.”



# COVID-19

By Jessica Whitmore with Editorial Assistance from Kelsey Madas ('15)

While times have certainly been difficult for many, these positive attitudes have been echoed by many in the LBC|Capital community. That spirit of hope has been summed up through the phrase LBC Together—or, online as the hashtag #LBCtogether—where students, faculty and staff have rallied together to share words of encouragement, news from the institution, participate in challenges, share updates from afar and stay in touch. Together is the only way LBC|Capital could have gotten through this.

This collective attitude of resiliency and hope, which comes from the top down at LBC|Capital, has not gone unnoticed. "In response to the coronavirus situation, [the faculty and staff of LBC

|Capital] have demonstrated their commitment to our [education] and well-being," said Debbie Celeste ('23), majoring in Communication. "[I am so grateful] for the email updates, encouragement, videos, blog posts and jokes to keep the mood light." Celeste also praised LBC|Capital for coming together so quickly. "Not only is it seriously impressive that in so little time, you [worked] as a team to accomplish so many different goals—it was organizing student affairs, communicating [about the final decision for] this semester, restructuring curriculum [for] remote learning or [everything] else behind the scenes—the fact that you eagerly lend your continued support is even more impressive, and it means a lot," she said.



Ryan Geeseman - Keeping my Photoshop... I mean basketball skills sharp.



Kedric Yoder ('22) enjoying his rooftop office space.



Professors and students participated in social media challenges using the hashtag, **#LBCtogether**, as a way to stay connected while finishing the semester with remote learning.

Dr. Tony Shetter, Bible & Theology Assistant Professor



## LBC | Capital's Response to COVID-19

(Continued from page 8)



The COVID-19 Senior Task Force met daily for weeks after the virus struck. Clockwise from top left: Rev. Zachary Ritvalsky, Philadelphia site director; Erin Quillen ('15), Executive Assistant to the President's Office; Tricia Wilson, Interim Provost; Scott Keating, Vice President of Advancement; Matt Mason, Vice President of Finance; Josh Beers, Senior Vice President of Student Experience; Dr. Tommy Kiedis, President; Judy Heckaman ('97), Assistant to the President; Vince Johnson, Vice President of Information Systems; Dr. Lee DeRemer, Vice President of People & Culture.



Amanda Zuschmidt, Health & Physical Education Assistant Professor

### 'WHATEVER IT TAKES'

Of course, no transition is entirely seamless, but students, staff and faculty handled it with grace along the way. Everyone put in long, hard hours to become remote ready in a matter of days, sometimes working around the clock, but still problems arose. Take, for instance, the simple fact that some students don't have internet access off campus, or even a computer... two very necessary components of remote learning.

So, with a servant-like attitude, LBC | Capital staff put students first. "I even delivered a computer to a student who needed it," said Dr. A. Michael Black, site director and dean of LBC | Capital's Washington DC location.

"When I dropped it off, the student said, 'You are really concerned about our success and you care.' This speaks to the kind of teamwork we have [at LBC | Capital]."

And that teamwork can be found at all of LBC | Capital's locations. Janice Williams, a 71-year-old student earning her bachelor's degree at the college's Philadelphia location, can certainly attest to it. What was supposed to be a short trouble-shooting phone call with site director Rev. Zachary Ritvalsky to help set up her dated computer for remote learning became more difficult than expected. Rev. Ritvalsky refused to give up until they had found a solution. "He wouldn't hang up until I could get completely on the





Keith Baum ('18), Director of Marketing Communications, teaching Intro to Digital Photography remotely.



Ryan Geesaman, Sandra Hess ('19), and Keith Baum ('18) film Dr. Kiedis for COVID-19 update videos.

system," shared Williams. "I'm so grateful and blessed with the instructors and professors at the Philadelphia location. The way they work with you shows the love of Christ so prevalent[ly]."

## BUILDING PLANES IN THE AIR

While students were, and are, rightly grieving the loss of time with beloved friends, important milestones and more, faculty and staff worked quickly to make services and resources available to them online, like counseling, chapel, and much more.

As Interim Provost, Wilson tasked faculty with building the proverbial plane in the air, she said confidently, "We have the technology and a great digital learning team here at LBC | Capital. COVID-19 has simply accelerated those conversations." Wilson also noted that as she saw the pandemic spread, she knew LBC | Capital was not alone in this. "All of higher education would be impacted," she said. "I started to think and ask 'How would we deal with it?' Departments had to work together in ways they have never worked together before. Discussions proceeded quickly. New procedures were put in place. The urgency of the moment made it all happen. We knew we had to resolve this."

As she saw teams come together, conflicts did occur at times but, "it was good conflict that

involved the wrestling through good solutions for this need. It meant hard work together."

Faculty, both full-time and adjunct, dug deeper into technology features and modified syllabi, lecture plans and assignments for a remote ready environment, all while responding to the COVID-19 changes affecting their own families.

"This quote from Winston Churchill sums it up: 'This is no time for ease and comfort. It is the time to dare and endure,'" shared Dr. Ling Dinse, LSW, assistant professor in the Counseling & Social Work Department. "My colleagues and I worked long hours forgoing the comfort of sleep and put our heads down to create remote ready lectures. My colleagues and I dared to challenge our technology savviness. We 'dare and endure' not to demonstrate our abilities. We do so to serve our unchanging God and bring calm to our students in the midst of uncertainty."

## LOOKING AHEAD

So, what lies ahead for the community of LBC | Capital? One thing's for sure: we'll continue to educate Christian students to think and live a biblical worldview and to proclaim Christ by serving Him in the church and society. We'll trust God with the rest.

To see the latest updates on the COVID-19 campus closure, visit [lbc.edu/campusupdates](https://lbc.edu/campusupdates)

"This is no time for ease and comfort. It is the time to dare and endure."



# COVID-19 Through the Eyes of our Students



Ben Maughan ('20), "A self-portrait as I prep for work as a caregiver to the elderly."



COVID-19 social distancing measures caused our professors and students to adapt. Students of HUM306 - Intro to Digital Photography were given this assignment: "You have an unusual opportunity to document history. This week I am asking you to use the power of photojournalism to record the impact of the COVID-19 quarantine on you, your family or your community. Submit 3 emotional, impactful black and white photos." See photos for student photo credit.



Top Left: Catherine Brewster ('21), "St. Mary's Hospital Triage Tent"  
Bottom Left: Ben Muller ('20), "Empty shelves in a grocery store."





Maggie Arnold ('20), "A portrait of my sister, Maribeth, in a mask for going outside."



Jack Hoover ('21), "My family working from home."



Leah Zeiset ('21), "Pastor Dave Horst ('82) preaches online for the Palm Sunday service at Christian Fellowship Church."

Top Right: Eliana Anthony ('20), "Photo of my father, pediatrician Dr. James Anthony, as he leaves for work."  
Middle Right: Madison Stitt ('20), "My sister watching movies on a laptop."



# Marcos Mendez: Beyond the Street Life

By Jessica Whitmore

**T**he street life was once comfortable for **Marcos Mendez** ('21), 41, who is in the Adult Education program at Lancaster Bible College studying Biblical Studies with a minor in Business. It was all he knew as he watched many of his 11 siblings make poor choices related to drugs, women and addictions. He followed their paths. At the age of 33, he was facing 11–22 years of prison on four charges related to drugs and aggravated assault. A plea deal was offered. He wasn't serving the Lord and was angry. His response was no. "Everyone was mad," he remembers. It wasn't the only instance he faced prison time as he found himself in and out of the prison system from ages 18–33.

His educational journey started in between prison stays in the 2000s. He was working a construction job when he was asked if he graduated from high school, with the further suggestion he should start his own company. As a result, Marcos started working on his business management degree at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) at the Lancaster campus. At one point, he was in school full-time and working part-time.

However, he found himself back in the jail system in 2008 as a mounting child support bill turned him back to easy and quick money through selling black-market movies. He remembers convincing himself that he wasn't selling drugs this time and wasn't harming people with this plan. However, he soon found himself pulled over by a police officer and spending 13 days in prison waiting for a court date. As a result, he missed his college classes and assignment deadlines. His semester was lost, and he found himself returning to the street life of selling drugs after he was released.

"I went back to doing what I was comfortable with," he shares while further explaining he was sneaky about this, and some of his family members didn't even realize he had returned to this life. Instead, they saw that he was caring for his mom, who was paralyzed from a stroke in 1997, and caring for his daughter, who is now 19.

In 2012, four months into one of his prison stays on drug charges, he went to the hole, or solitary confinement. "I was angry and a danger to myself and others. For the first time ever, I cried out to the Lord,"

he recalls. He doesn't remember what specific day it was as time blurs together in solitary confinement.

When he emerged from the hole, he called his sister, who was also caring for their mother. He told his sister he was done with the street life and was going to do something positive with his life.

He also prayed before coming out of the hole that "if you want me to pursue You (God), put me in a cell with someone seeking You." His next cellmate just happened to be an inmate who had a relationship with the Lord. This inmate helped nurture Marcos' relationship with God.

Eventually, he was bailed out on the drug charges. He even repeated "I'm done with the street life" to the bail bondsman. The reply he got was, "I've heard this before."

The bail bondsman recommended a Ready to Work (RTW) program for Marcos. It typically takes 31 days to complete. Marcos finished in 23 days. He had to chase down the bail bondsman to give him the paperwork to show he completed the program. The bail bondsman was shocked and told him no one had ever tracked him down, forgave the outstanding bail balance and told Marcos that God had great things in store for him.

During this time, Marcos started to share his story with teen programs, such as Teen Haven, and ministered within churches to help youth stay away from wrong choices like his. He also worked on earning his barber license, which only cost \$50 to start. He was attending Bible studies and ministry programs, all to keep him on the right track.

Then he found himself back inside prison. When the time came for the court hearing related to the previous charges in question, carrying 11–22 years in prison, the one with the offered plea deal, he didn't want to cooperate with authorities. He was fed up with his past lifestyle and tired of being in and out of prison. "I didn't want to lie," he shares. "I'm done with the street lifestyle."

During his time in prison, while other inmates were starting to take college credits, Marcos used the time to study the Bible. After four years and two months of time served, he was released in 2016. (cont. on pg. 15)





MARCOS

Mendez

~~~~~  
“I was angry  
and a danger  
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others. For  
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out to the  
Lord.”  
~~~~~



# Marcos Mendez:

## Beyond the Street Life

"God put it on my heart to inquire about LBC | Capital," he remembers. While LBC | Capital accepted most of his credits from previous college studies, he learned a loan default from 2008 and his time at HACC would delay his entrance. This meant six months of payments to remove the default status before his LBC | Capital journey could begin.

During this time, he earned money using his barber license, first at a barbershop with an environment in which he no longer felt comfortable, and then at the barbershop he now owns with another barber.

"God placed the barbershop in my hands," he shares about Manor Barber Shop at 1208 Millersville Pike in Lancaster ([manorbarbersinc.com](http://manorbarbersinc.com)). With his sisters, he has continued to care for his mom, who passed away in January 2020, and his dad, who has Parkinson's disease and is now 91, all while studying at LBC | Capital with expected graduation in June 2021.

LBC | Capital has changed Marcos' position on the church element and theological perspectives. "It has helped me see lot in a different light," he shares. "You learn habits, ways and traditions. It has helped me understand the Bible. I see a lot of people are doing life wrong and not lining up with the Bible. I see how much people miss the mark and that has helped me make the mark. Through God's sovereignty, it's not me or us. It's God."

As for the future, Marcos wants to continue to minister to youth to help prevent any young person from going down a path similar to his. He also anticipates seeking a chaplaincy position at Lancaster's youth detention center. Many of his siblings have now turned to Christ, and in the words of Marcos, "There is work to do for the Kingdom."

Marcos credits Steven ('19) and Angie Holsinger as being instrumental in his time at LBC | Capital.

"When I lost my mom, which was the hardest time of my life, the Holsingers were there every step of the way making sure things were taken care of for school, and they even came to my mother's funeral," he shares. "That meant so much to me."

The Holsingers aren't just there for Marcos at LBC | Capital. Angie is a financial aid coordinator, and Steve is an academic advisor for the Lancaster on-campus students who are in the Adult Education program.

"Marcos is definitely an example of living out the biblical mandate to care for and honor your parents," shares Angie. "Marcos is well loved by his classmates, and it was such a joy to see how they came alongside him to encourage him when his mom passed away. The Tuesday night Adult Ed. program has such a sense of camaraderie, and students genuinely care about each other."

"I make it a point to be available to speak with students before class on Tuesday evenings," Steven shares. "My goal is to build relational connections with the students, provide informal pastoral care when needed and promote a sense of Christian community among the adult students. I gradually started to get to know Marcos over time as we interacted before class on Tuesdays. This relationship was further cemented when Angie and I did our best to support Marcos after the sudden loss of his mother. We attended his mother's viewing and did our best to care for him in that time, and I could tell that our efforts in that time after his mother's unexpected death meant a lot to Marcos."

"The real story is Marcos and other students like him who sacrifice so much to study at LBC | Capital and be further equipped for service in God's kingdom," Steven adds. "It is amazing to me to see him and other adult students weather such difficult storms in life and yet remain committed to their Christian education because of a call to do so."

# \$80 A Month Can Change A Student's Life

Stephen Costello ('22)  
Evelena Livvette ('22)  
Lucy Birchfield ('22)

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# Meet Cierra Woods,

## A Graduate Student at Our Washington, DC Location

### Who Am I?


My name is **Cierra Michele Woods** ('21) and I am 27 years old. I was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and raised in Brooklyn, New York. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for four years, and we have a beautiful two-year-old daughter. My husband and I are currently dual military and commissioned officers. He is a 2nd lieutenant in the United States Air Force, and I am an ensign in the Navy. I served over seven years in the United States Marine Corps (sergeant). Joining the most elite force in America was one of the best decisions I have made. During this time, I served as a warehouse/fiscal clerk. I deployed to Afghanistan, earned my bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration with a concentration in human services from the University of Phoenix in 2018 and earned two Navy Achievement Awards for my superior duties.

### Why I joined the Marine Corps

I was eight years old when my mother suddenly died of a heart attack on September 5, 2000. At that time, I had no desire to do much of anything without her. My father had to do the best he could raising six children without the love of his life. God placed people in our lives that helped my father feed us and clothe us, namely my Grandmother Diane, Grandmother Robinson and the church family.

I found my purpose to serve others when I entered high school in the JROTC program. I quickly moved up the ranks and became one of the leaders of my flight. When I realized college wasn't for me during my sophomore year of high school, I knew I had to do something else. I enjoyed being a leader in a military environment, so I decided to join the United States Marine Corps without consulting anyone because I did not want any negative





feedback. After I scheduled the ASVAB test, I told my father, and he was very supportive. Since being in the Marine Corps, I have inspired so many others to join and do well at their jobs and leadership.

## My Journey to LBC | Capital

My educational journey leading to LBC | Capital was in the opposite direction because I was pursuing a degree in criminal justice. Toward the end of my program, I lost the desire to go forward with my plans of becoming an FBI Agent. It was hard, because I lost my purpose. Initially, I knew my purpose was to serve my country, but I felt something was missing. I could not figure out what it was.

One day, one of my best friends, Norma, invited me to a Bible study held at our unit. During this point in my life, I had not attended church for six years because I felt people were hypocrites and did not live the life they preached. I experienced this from my grandfather, who was a deacon.

I accepted her offer, and that Bible study was the start of a new beginning. I realized I was missing a relationship with God. After rededicating my life to Christ, I finally began to feel complete.

The change in my life was so great that everyone could see I was much happier, more loving and vibrant overall. I remember praying fervently, asking God to guide me into doing what He wanted me to do — and whatever He was calling me to that He would give me the courage to do it (Matthew 7:7-8).

Before long, the chaplain of my unit sent me an email and asked that I come to his office. I made time to see him, and he presented me with Chaplain Candidate information. I was not expecting anything like this to happen. I simply could not believe it. I believed I was not good enough because I did not attend church or prayed as often as I should have.

"I understand why you feel the way you do, but a calling is unique to everyone," he said to me. "Don't devalue yours just because it doesn't sound like someone else's. I believe God has called you to be a chaplain, and some days you'll feel it stronger than other days."

His words have stuck with me ever since. As I prayed to ask God to lead me into making the right decision, I found myself looking into different seminaries just as thrilled as a kid waiting for the ice cream truck.

## Choosing LBC | Capital

I chose LBC | Capital because their blended courses aligned perfectly with my active-duty schedule, and it was relatively close to where I lived. The passion the teachers have and the relationships I have made with classmates are what make LBC | Capital special. The professors are very knowledgeable and wise, and they truly invest in each one of their students. My husband and I have recently received orders to move to North Carolina. I do not mind driving four hours every nine weeks because I love this school and the environment so much. I will continue to pursue my Master of Divinity at LBC | Capital.

## The Future

Whenever I'm asked about the future, I reference two of my favorite scriptures:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart," (Jeremiah 29:11-13, ESV).

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths," (Proverbs 3:5-6, ESV).

These scriptures remind me that self-sufficiency without God is not good. Life is like a roller coaster. When I grow weary, all I have to do is pray, and God will take care of whatever I am going through. Upon earning my Master of Divinity, the Chaplain Candidate Program for the Navy requires that I complete two years of post-experience in ministry.

I plan to serve at the church I will attend when we are settled at our next duty station, as well as obtain Clinical Pastoral Education units. After I am done with getting the required experience, I plan to supersede, so I can become an active-duty chaplain, serving the Lord and my country!

Do you want to study at our Washington, DC location? Learn more here: [lbc.edu/dc](http://lbc.edu/dc)

CIERRA  
Woods



We Asked You to Share  
Stories of Kind Professors.  
We Were Floored by  
the Responses.

By Kelsey Madas ('15)



A few months ago, we posed the following query to our Instagram followers: What's the kindest thing a professor has ever done for you? We were floored by the stories they shared about everything from extensions on homework assignments to paying bills when a student came up short. Check out some of the responses. And, if you'd like to read them all, check out our Instagram Story Highlight.

- 1) "Drove an hour+ in the middle of summer break to take me out to lunch to see how I was doing!" – @staylean\_matt
- 2) "Dr. Farnham brought me dinner when I had to work on campus on Easter. Best prof ever!" – @andrew\_veltri
- 3) "Mrs. Klopp gave me a "good luck goodie bag" filled with stuff on a big game day." – @brittany\_14
- 4) "Stuck with me through lots of ups and downs and gave me tons of godly counsel." – @rachsalen
- 5) "Bought my friend and I dinner after spending time in the ER and missing dinner." – @stephaniekathrynblest
- 6) "Stopped me after class for a hug while my family was in the middle of a tough move." – @with.moxie
- 7) "Paid a heat/utilities bill when I couldn't." – @r.c.wells
- 8) "Offered to pick me up from the airport after Christmas break." – @ashleyrenee320
- 9) "Mrs. Hinkel used to carry my books after chapel to her class after I had ankle surgery." – @xomandy\_22
- 10) "Brought donuts into our class for our exam." – @libertybrouillette
- 11) "Consistently prayed for me and my classmates and followed up with us." – @asky\_destiny
- 12) "Extended my final papers by over a week when I broke my hand right before finals." – @chriissy\_nicole9
- 13) "Gave me an undeserved extension for a paper! Grace!" – @aminlevar
- 14) "Checked up on me way past graduation." – @vmarie234
- 15) "Just being there to talk with me when I was going through some tough times." – @vc3photography

We loved hearing these stories. Do you have a story about a professor from LBC | Capital you'd like to share? Send us a message on our Instagram account! You can find us by searching for the College name or simply by typing in our username: [@lanasterbiblecollege](#).

# I Have Asperger's Syndrome and God Is Using It for Good

By Noah Lynch ('23)

*This article originally appeared in Lancaster Bible College's online student newspaper, Focus.*

**H**ave you ever known someone with Asperger's syndrome? I do...

Asperger's syndrome is a developmental disorder that causes those afflicted to have more trouble being in social situations, to seek out solitary places when they feel stressed, to maintain consistency in their daily activities and to be sensitive to certain stimuli, such as loud noises and bright lights. I have Asperger's syndrome, and I've seen firsthand how it's been challenging in many aspects of my life. I've also come to see how God uses it for good and for His glory.

Being an introvert, I draw my strength from being alone. However, because I have Asperger's, I need to be alone more than normal people, even more than other introverts. This impacted me when I was younger, as I tended to avoid other people. Looking back, I see that I missed a lot of opportunities to grow my friendships. Even so, when I was in youth group, I made several good friends that I love and still keep up with.

Another aspect of my autism is a very strong, almost single-minded focus on accomplishing things. When I need to get something accomplished, especially if I perceive it is important, I feel anxious if it isn't done and will work extra hard to complete it. I have learned to manage this on bigger projects, like school assignments, with a well-structured plan, where I break things up and spread them out, working through things a little at a time.

When I came to LBC | Capital, I found that these two aspects of my Asperger's combined in an interesting, though challenging, way.

In my first year at LBC | Capital, through school and the guidance of my parents and friends, I learned more about the importance of friends. I realized that I needed to make sure I didn't miss out on developing strong friendships at college. I was frequently counseled by my dad, "When you're in college, you have some of the best opportunities to make life-long friends, so don't miss out on those opportunities—yes, work hard and learn, but make time to be a good friend and work on developing strong relationships."

Good grades and strong relationships—challenge accepted.





Noah Lynch ('23), left, pictured with his brother, Ben Lynch, ('17 & '19).

However, my Asperger's also impacted how I interact with my friends. Since I regrettably did not spend more time with friends in high school, this led to the mindset that I needed to seize every moment I could to spend time with my friends at LBC | Capital. Unfortunately, sometimes I pursued my friends a little too intentionally. When I see my friends, I feel an urgent need to seek them out and talk to them immediately. Sometimes I am unaware of how my actions might cause my friends discomfort. This, according to "The Complete Guide to Asperger's Syndrome" by Tony Attwood, is consistent with the second way that Asperger's individuals interact with people socially (2006, p. 10). By God's grace, I have loving friends who understand my feelings and are

patient and honest with me when I engage in behavior that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Being an individual with Asperger's also affects how I handle changes in schedules or routines. Also confirmed by Attwood's book, I experience higher levels of anxiety and fear than "normal" people. This is most prevalent when I experience changes in my life. I do not mean changes like getting a new t-shirt, but rather the big, life-changing changes such as moving away to college, starting a new semester or losing a friend. These changes stir up intense feelings of fear and stress in me. When changes like that happen to me, I feel like everything is upended! Often it takes me a long time to work through these changes. However, in every change, I can see God shaping me not only to be ready for the next big change, but also growing me so that I become stronger, as Romans 5:1-5 states that our sufferings build us up.

Living with Asperger's syndrome, I was blessed to be born in a Christian family with loving parents and siblings who did not once make me feel like I was an outsider or a freak. I grew up in a church where I was welcomed and where I found many good friends, and I have found many other excellent friends here at LBC | Capital. However, I have met other autistic people who did not have the same good upbringing and who suffered bullying. Worse, they did not know God and hated themselves for being autistic.

At times, I feel pressure to hate myself whenever my autism causes me to mess up in my social life. However, when these times happen, I think about the blind man in John 9 whom Jesus healed. Jesus used the man's condition to bring God glory, and I become comforted in the thought that He will do the same thing with me.

If any of my fellow students at LBC | Capital have some kind of impairment and Satan whispers lies that you cannot have friends or succeed in life because of your condition, don't believe him. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth... When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44, ESV). Rather remember the words of Psalm 139:14: "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." God uses our weaknesses to show two things: that He can use any situation for good and He uses sufferings for His glory.

Want to read more great content written by our students? Read our student newspaper online by visiting [lbc.edu/focus](http://lbc.edu/focus)



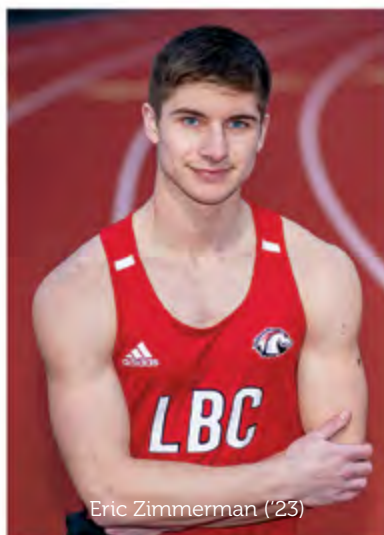
# 20 BY 20:

LBC | Capital's  
20th Sport Makes  
History in Its  
First Season



By Saundra Hess ('19)

Members of the track and field team at practice.



Eric Zimmerman ('23)

If you were to ask the LBC | Capital track and field team what they remember about the 2020 indoor season, yes, they'd talk about how it ended, but I think you'd hear about their remarkable firsts and how they grew together with a family-like culture.

Track and field began as a club team at the College, comprised of cross-country athletes and other students who just enjoyed the sport. Pete Beers, Director of Athletics, saw potential in this club. They were successful at competitions. However, there was one glaring issue: the College doesn't have a track on campus.

That didn't stop Beers from finding the resource for LBC | Capital athletes. His connection with the athletic director at Lancaster Catholic High School turned out to be the answer—they agreed to let the club practice at their facility. "Lancaster Catholic has a beautiful facility and is located only a few miles from our campus," explains track and field head coach Melissa Baughman. It was the perfect answer to get this sport for the Chargers.

With successful athletes and access to a track, track and field moved from club status to an official varsity sport in April 2019, sealing the College's goal for offering 20 sports by 2020. Baughman, a former middle school English teacher, stepped onto the scene with over 20 years of experience as a track and field coach. Ryan Gehman, Jon Bird, Robert Koenig, Adam Mattias, and Mike Herb joined her as assistant coaches, all specializing in different track and field events.

The indoor season hit the ground running. With 26 athletes, Coach Baughman had a range of experience to work with—even baseball players joined the

team because they wanted to improve their running speed. "Being a part of LBC | Capital's first official track and field team has been an interesting experience to say the least," says Trey Baughman ('22), majoring in Business Administration, who is also Coach Baughman's son. "As it is our first year, there are a lot of things that we are figuring out as we go and [adjustments being made], but between our coaching staff and all the members of our team, I think we have navigated that really well."

In a team's first year, there aren't the same guiding principles for establishing a team captain like there are in mature teams. Instead, Coach Baughman established a student-athlete leadership team who chose the theme, "Set the Example," defined by three team culture-defining components:

1. Christ-like
2. Competitive
3. Create family-like culture

The team celebrated history-making moments from the very beginning. "That first meet, everything is a school record, but almost all of the team members have improved times and distances since the beginning," Coach Baughman shared excitedly. You could tell she was proud of the way her athletes were improving.

"In addition to being an NCAA Division III member, we are a part of the NCCAA (National Christian College Athletic Association), which is made up of over 80 Christian colleges around the country," shares Coach Baughman. "The indoor championship was held at Cedarville University in Ohio at the end of February. In order to qualify, athletes must meet a standard time or distance. We had three individuals qualify: Eric Zimmerman ('23) in 60m, 200m; Trey



Left: Trey Baughman ('22) Right: Winter Saunders ('21)

Baughman in Heptathlon; Elijah Herb ('23) in 60m hurdles, triple jump; and a 4 x 200 relay team (Ty Erisman ('23), Josh Noll ('22), Logan Klutinoty ('23), Eric Zimmerman."

"Going to nationals with the guys was one of my favorite memories from [the] indoor season," shares Zimmerman, majoring in Health & Physical Education. "Having the other guys and girls on the team has definitely helped me develop athletically because they push me to be the best that I can be during practice as well as in meets. The encouragement I receive from them has helped me stay focused on the goal of demonstrating Christ's strength alone through performing well in my events."

The team emphasized growing together by prioritizing team lunches, a retreat, and Coach Baughman and her husband, Rod, opening their home to their athletes. "The most rewarding thing about coaching track and field at LBC | Capital is the time I get to spend with the student-athletes," Coach Baughman says.

Winter Saunders ('21), majoring in Early Childhood Education, experienced this first-hand when she and Coach Baughman began discussing her past with hurdles. "I have struggled with serious health conditions for a long time. This limited me not only athletically, but I also suffered academically and socially," explains Saunders. "In August 2019, I had my gallbladder removed through surgery and to everyone's surprise I was blessed with mobility again."

Saunders' teammates noticed how she would put extra time outside of practice to work on technique. "God has blessed me with health that I haven't had in over a decade, and I wanted to use it to glorify Him," Saunders further explains. "We proceeded to slowly get me introduced to athletics again, and everyone has been helpful, encouraging and kind the whole way. I have been able to take on three events in the course of this first season."

Saunders and the rest of the team were set for success in their first season when COVID-19 changed everything. LBC | Capital announced, along with the NEAC President's Council, canceling all spring athletic activities beginning March 13 due to the threat of COVID-19. For all Chargers, this was a hard reality to grasp.

"I felt sad about the relationships I had worked to develop with both my teammates and my competitors on other teams," shares Saunders. "A big reason I chose to do track and field is to glorify God in sharing the gospel with my competitors. I was confused because it felt like God had taken away my athletic abilities again. We must trust that God can use any situation for His good. I felt relieved in recognizing that before my surgery in August, I would have been in the category of people that COVID-19 affects the most. I am beyond grateful for my current health status and have taken the unique opportunity to reach out to my competitors virtually."

Trey Baughman also shared disappointment in the unexpected end to the season. "It has been difficult not being able to train as effectively

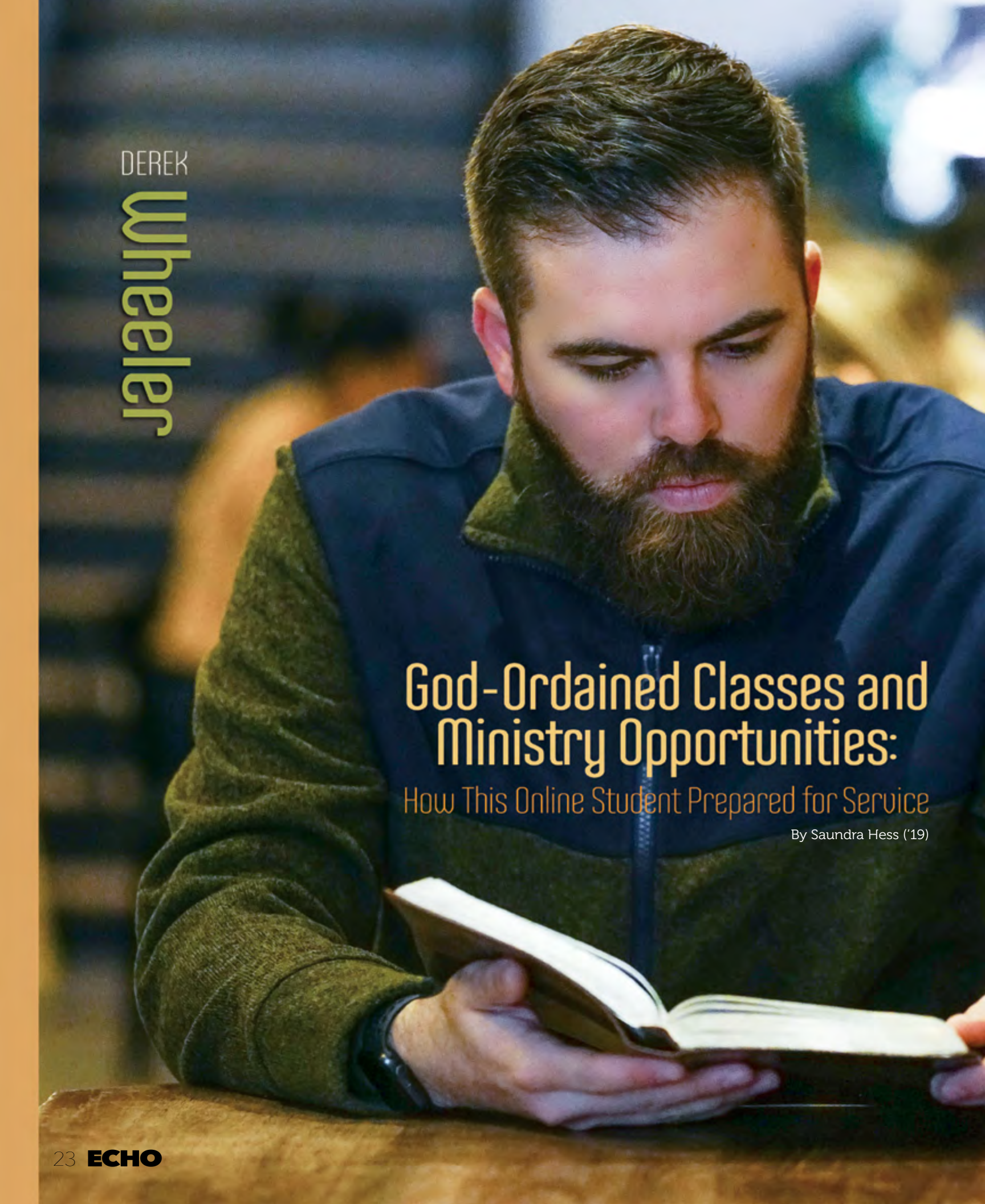
during this time, but Coach has done a great job at keeping in touch with the team and making sure we are all keeping up with our school work," says Coach Baughman. "In addition, Coach sends out a weekly devotional and is making efforts to keep us accountable in our spiritual walk as well. Obviously, nothing she or any of the other coaches have done compares to being together and training together as a team, but I think they have done a great job at making this difficult time a lot easier."

Although it isn't the traditional season they were expecting, the LBC | Capital track and field team is still preparing for history-making seasons ahead. And, they're still the competitive, Christ-like team they aspired to be. "I have been able to make bonds with friends who not only share a similar interest in running, but who genuinely care about one another," says Zimmerman. "The only way to describe it accurately is to call it a family."

Visit [lbcchargers.com](https://lbcchargers.com) and follow @LBCathletics on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to stay connected with your favorite Chargers!





A man with a dark beard and hair, wearing a dark blue jacket over a green sweater, is looking down at an open book he is holding with both hands. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a church interior with other people. The lighting is warm and focused on the man.

DEREK


Wheeler

## God-Ordained Classes and Ministry Opportunities:

How This Online Student Prepared for Service

By Sandra Hess ('19)





**W**hen **Derek Wheeler** ('20) dated his now wife, Savannah, they both had a sense God would lead them into international missions. Now 13 years later, God is answering their desire while using those in-between years of preparation.

Derek, a student in the online Biblical Studies program, wears many hats—husband, father and full-time youth pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Cumberland, Maryland. For three years, Derek studied business management at a different Christian university, but eventually, it didn't seem to align with his ministry desires. "God altered my path back to youth ministry, and I wanted to switch to a school with a different focus," he shares.

He wanted a school that focused on biblical integration and was God-centered and God-glorifying. That, combined with the flexibility offered by the online program at LBC | Capital seemed like the perfect fit. "I was looking for a program that I could do while being a full-time youth pastor and having three kids," says Derek. "All the parts work well with my lifestyle. I appreciate that the online program is one class at a time because I can focus on one aspect of the degree at a time."

So, what does flexibility look like in an online program?

A program, especially online, is influenced by the community environment professors model. "The professors have said in their syllabi or welcome videos that they know we have jobs and families," explains Derek. "I just have to email them and tell them my schedule. They are very flexible and that speaks volumes on them wanting to see us succeed."

Derek experienced this firsthand with his professor, Dr. Mark Menga. His class assignments had due dates around the same time he was planning and leading a missions trip to the Dominican Republic with his church. With responsibility for 23 people and all the planning that goes into international trips, Derek knew it would be a struggle to complete his assignments effectively. "Dr. Menga understood that the gospel-centered mission trip took focus, and he gave me the bandwidth to navigate that time," shares Derek.

"There's also a God-ordained way these classes have fallen," says Derek. He would write a paper for a class, and then the same topic would arise in small groups at youth group. "I take my responsibilities as a youth pastor very seriously, and these classes have helped to provide me with the confidence to lead my students," he explains.

God did not forget Derek and Savannah's earlier desire for international missions. In fact, He used that time of leading their church to the Dominican Republic to spark a desire to serve there full-time!

In summer 2020, the Wheelers will change occupations to full-time ministry in the Dominican Republic on behalf of Freedom International Ministries. Derek will lead worldview training for the staff, students and interns and will teach in a Christian school in the sugarcane villages.

Derek believes earning a degree at LBC | Capital has prepared him for this next step. "It takes discipline and the ability to schedule out your week to accomplish what needs to be accomplished. But, if you put the discipline in, you will reap the benefits, and I've reaped the benefits. It has been a very enriching and encouraging process for me."

Want to earn your degree online? Visit [lbc.edu/online](https://lbc.edu/online)





Our culture suffers from a division that is breaking our churches as well. Many differences of opinion now alienate what have become two sides of an ideological contest. One might argue that the most basic issue that defines this battle is history. Now, I am not saying that because I am a history professor... well, maybe I am. Nevertheless, the past has become one of the chief bones of contention in our ongoing culture war. One group, on the liberal side, is trying to run from the past, while the other group, on the conservative side, is hoping to return to it.

On the liberal side of our national discourse, people believe that the challenges the world faces are the inheritance of bigoted traditions. *The New York Times* launched its 1619 project nearly a year ago which argues that all of our modern problems, from inequality to obesity, have resulted from our

love and kindness but does not provide guidance on issues such as gender and poverty.

On the conservative side of our national discourse, people argue that the challenges the world now faces are merely new versions of very old problems in human history. In the past, intellectuals and leaders forged traditions to tackle some of humanity's greatest and most perennial problems such as tyranny, anarchy and starvation. These traditions captured timeless truths about the human condition that we might modify carefully but never supersede. In fact, the further we move away from these traditions, such as private property, monogamy, rule of law and orthodox religion, then the further human society moves out upon a limb that cannot bear its weight. The crash will come when the novelties of postmodern experimentation finally cut the fibers now tenuously connecting us to the roots of our

# Moving Ahead by Holding

racist past. Among the project's many claims is the inference that as time goes on, we are becoming more enlightened, more moral and more equal. In recent years, liberal writers have described themselves as being on "the right side of history," which means that they seek to overturn prior injustices, such as environmental degradation and social inequities, by enacting unconventional tactics. History, it seems, is not a record of human effort, achievement and failure, but a journey to a future time when we will correct all the evils of our past.

Many Christians have assumed a liberal view in an effort to address a range of perennial, modern problems. Marginalization of racial minorities and the persistent poverty of certain populations have proven the bankruptcy of conventional thinking, they argue. To solve the problems of a post-industrial world, many liberals in American churches have sought to free themselves from the Bible's archaic ideas and listen to a God who is still speaking. This phrase means that while the Scriptures represent God's words for an ancient time, He has superseded the archaic thinking of Moses, David, Mark and Paul with more advanced truths for more advanced problems. Science and modern research are uncovering human problems that Christians in first-century Rome and tenth-century BC Israel could never have anticipated. The Bible certainly communicates principles such as

civilization: the Greeks, Judeo-Christian values and the American founding.

As with the other side of the aisle, many Christians have accommodated their beliefs to the conservative position. The argument for this is strong because like traditional Christianity, conservatism supports traditional religious values in the areas of personal morality, family and human life. In light of this symmetry, many American churches have taken on a conservative worldview that recognizes the superiority of western traditions for building free, productive and happy societies. At the present, technology and prosperity act as braces that keep our world from falling, but at some point, these too will fail, and civilization will be lost.

Christians feel the tension, as both sides of our discourse draw different communities of Christians in exactly opposite directions. The unity of the Church, the mark that Jesus said would identify His body, seems to be fading. Can the Christian Church rise to face new challenges? Will Christians remain faithful to the truths of Scripture? We realize that there is no greater danger to the Church than to compromise the bedrock truths of our faith, and yet we must live out a gospel that provides real answers to real problems. Maybe the reason that we feel so embattled in this age is that we have been given



an either-or proposition, which reflects neither the Scriptures we read nor the Christ we worship. In one sense, we cannot be either liberal or conservative because to follow Christ means to be both.

On one hand, Christianity is the most liberal religion the world has ever known. The Bible is a very liberal book in the sense that it challenged the traditions that undergirded the Jewish way of life, both in ancient Israel and first-century Judea. Jewish leaders deemed Jesus a radical who sat with tax collectors, talked with prostitutes, healed on the Sabbath and mingled with lepers. If the future of humanity is equality, no one captured such a goal better than Paul, who said that in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female (Galatians 3:28). The gospel challenges every human tradition, no matter how noble it may appear. To follow Christ means to pursue liberation for all those who, as a

liberal with its unabashed commitment to truths that were penned in an ancient culture, then confirmed by the incarnate God. How can we hold these two truths together?

My New Testament professor and mentor, Dr. Al Mawhinney, challenged my gospels class in a devotional on the Sermon on the Mount. He said that one of the reasons we wrestle to understand Jesus' teachings is that He frequently refused to resolve some of Scriptures' most difficult paradoxes, one of which might be the tension between its conservativeness and liberalness. There are, Dr.

“Like kites, Christians are free to move in any wind, to interact with any gust of change. But the only reason that they can fly is that they are anchored to something, or rather someone, perfect and omnipotent.”

# Firmly to the Past

By Dr. Daniel R. Spanjer, Chair of the Arts & Sciences Department

consequence of spiritual bondage, suffer in prisons physical, psychological and economic.


On the other hand, when we seek to live out Christ's radical love, we find that He calls us to an uncompromisingly conservative faith. For, while the Bible is shockingly liberal, it is also unwaveringly conservative; it may be the most conservative document ever written by human authors. From Moses to John, the writers of the Bible are clear that the law of God is as eternal as He is. Jesus' words will outrage any liberal when He says that the earth will pass away, but not one word of His law. The law to which Jesus referred in Matthew 5 was written before such modern notions as heliocentrism, gene theory and modern psychology. Christ did not say, one day when you harness the atom you will fix my old, outdated law. He said that we are not to relax even the least of His commandments. His law is the tradition that must bind our minds and hearts, no matter what new problems we face—it is the way of life in a world of death.

Here is the revolution that is God's Word—its truth is an affront to every culture, every age and every people. All people are scandalized by the liberality of a love so outrageous that it calls us to love our enemies and names the first last and the last first. At the same time, the Bible's teachings offend every

Mawhinney said, two ways to balance a seesaw: you can bring all truths to the middle, or you can allow truths to sit on the furthest reaches of the plank. Jesus rarely utilized the former but frequently relied on the latter.

As Christians, we must be careful not to force our cultural loyalties and intellectual categories onto God's Word. Rather, we must ensure that God's Word is what crafts, shapes, breaks and reforms our hearts and minds. If we follow Christ's teaching and the apostles' model, we will find that to face new challenges, we must live out the gospel's radical love while tightening our grip on the past until our knuckles grow white from the strain. I sometimes tell my students that thinking Christianly means imitating a kite. Unlike stones which are unmoved by the wind, Christians cannot protect themselves from this world's gales. At the same time, we must not become the leaf that blows wherever the wind takes it. Like kites, Christians are free to move in any wind, to interact with any gust of change. But the only reason that they can fly is that they are anchored to something, or rather someone, perfect and omnipotent. Tied to Christ, our unmovable rock, and to His teachings, we must employ a love so radical that no one is below, above or beyond its reach.



A portrait of Margarita Herrera, an older woman with grey hair, smiling. She is wearing a blue blazer over a white shirt and a colorful, multi-strand beaded necklace. On her left lapel, there is a patch that reads "Capellanes Internacionales Cristianos León De Judá INC." and a circular emblem with various flags. On her right lapel, there are several circular pins, one of which reads "CAP. LINA VISCERA".

# How a Phone Call Helped Margarita Herrera Fulfill a Dream

By Sandra Hess ('19)

MARGARITA  
**Herrera**

It only took a phone call to propel **Margarita Herrera's** ('22) dream into action. This phone call was from LBC | Capital admissions counselor, David Lingham. With this unexpected moment, God was showing Margarita that he was using her past to prepare for her present ministry.

Although Margarita's journey to LBC | Capital started with a phone call, God placed a friend in her life who connected the dots between what Margarita had always desired to do and who could help her complete her degree. The Philadelphia location hosted a "bring your friend" open house event. Even though Margarita knew about the event, she decided not to attend. However, her friend thought of Margarita that night and gave her contact information to an admissions counselor.

Then came the phone call that began a new journey for Margarita. She almost didn't answer because it was an unrecognized number! As she explains it, though, something inside of her made her answer anyway, and she's glad she did. Through conversations with David and others, she decided to earn a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies.

When Margarita received David's phone call, she hadn't been a student for nine long years. She earned an associate's degree from Jefferson University but was not able to continue school when her mother became ill in 2012. The following year, her sister passed away, and then several years later, her mother. Those days were very difficult for Margarita and her husband, Jose Manuel, losing two dear people. Understandably, work and caretaking had filled Margarita's days. Finishing her degree just couldn't take priority.

Even as Margarita used her time and energy for caretaking, she was fulfilling God's calling on her life to serve as a chaplain. Beginning in 2009,

Margarita served as an on-call weekend chaplain for Jefferson University. She did so for four years, then she and Jose Manuel began their chaplaincy ministry together at the university and later transitioned to chaplaincy ministry in Puerto Rico.

God led Margarita and Jose Manuel's ministry to grow in beautiful ways. This explains why receiving a call from David piqued her interest—she only needed 18 credits to get a bachelor's degree! "You keep saying you're going to go back, but then you never do," says Margarita. "The phone call was right on time. It was something I needed to do even though I was the director of a chaplaincy. I needed to get away from the sadness of losing two people that were very close to me."

Margarita's Biblical Studies degree helps her in her current role as director of a chaplaincy in Philadelphia, PA, a position she's held for 10 years. At Capellanes Cristianos Internacionales De Leon De Juda Inc. (International Christian Chaplaincy of the Lion of Judah), she graduated from their program as a certified chaplain, which led to teaching and then the director position. The chaplaincy trains chaplains, brings Spanish church services to the elderly and has legal permission to feed the homeless and provide blankets and jackets—even preach.

"The degree from LBC | Capital has helped me a lot, and I have to say it like that. Being a chaplain for so long, I've learned many things. Here, it's different because it's actually applying God's Word to everything. Even though I always let people know I am a chaplain, people come up to me and say that I'm a lady of God. But going to the College, I've learned how I can discern a person's needs more than I could before."

Do you want to study at our Philadelphia location? Learn more here: [lbc.edu/philadelphia](https://lbc.edu/philadelphia)

God placed a friend in her life who connected the dots between what Margarita had always desired to do and who could help her complete her degree.





## Our Bond Will Carry Us Through Disappointment

By Zach Freeman, Director of Athletic Communications

In conjunction with the NCAA canceling the 2020 NCAA Spring Championships, as well as the North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) canceling the remainder of the regular season, the LBC | Capital Athletic Department made the tough, but necessary, decision to cancel all athletic events following the conclusion of play on Friday, March 13, 2020. The baseball and softball teams wrapped up their spring break trips in Myrtle Beach, SC that day, and following the conclusion of those events, the rest of the spring season, including games, practices, and non-traditional seasons for fall teams, was canceled.

While the spring seasons ended prematurely, both LBC | Capital coaches and student-athletes took the announcement in stride, understanding that their health, as well as the health of others, took precedent over their season. LBC | Capital Director of Athletics, Pete Beers, issued the following statement in mid-March, as he acknowledged it was the right decision, while still having a heavy heart for the seniors on each team.

"I can't tell our seniors how much I hurt for them during this time," Beers said. "This is unprecedented, but we are constantly challenged to live each day as if it were our last. On March 13, we found out our last games of the season were this week, but regardless of how long our seasons were, bonds have been made and will carry us longer than this season. We trust that these decisions will aid the process of getting our country on the right side of this pandemic."

Student-athletes, family, friends, and fans of LBC | Capital can still visit [lbcchargers.com](http://lbcchargers.com) for the most up-to-date information on LBC | Capital Athletics, including fall 2020 schedules later this spring and features on some of our great student-athletes.

# How This LBC | Capital Grad Ended Up on a D1 Basketball Team

By Kelsey Madas ('15)

**A**dam Surguine ('10) has gone on to do big things since he graduated from LBC | Capital in 2010. This Laurel, MD native and sport management major is now the video coordinator for the women's basketball team at Florida State University. But how did he end up there?

While Surguine was a student at LBC | Capital, he was also a member of the men's basketball team. He said the coaches he had here, along with many others, shaped him into the person—and coach—he is today. "There have been many coaches along the way that have been really impactful throughout this journey," he said. "The director of athletics, Pete Beers, was my coach in college and actually offered me my first full-time job."

After he graduated, Surguine accepted the full-time position that Beers offered him at LBC | Capital in the athletic department, and stayed there from 2010 to 2014. "While being an assistant coach with the women's basketball team, I also held various roles in the athletic department," he explained. It was then Surguine confirmed his passion: basketball.

Surguine then went on to join the staff at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmittsburg, MD from 2014 to 2015. From there, he went on to Campbell University in Buies Creek, NC from 2015 to 2019, and finally, he arrived at Florida State University.

Now, his days are filled to the brim, balancing his intense role at Florida State along with his responsibilities as a

husband and a father. "During the season, there are basically two different types of days: practice days and game days," said Surguine. Both are equally busy as the top 25th-ranked Seminoles compete for the top of the ACC.

"Each day tends to look a little different as there aren't many typical days. Practice days involve a lot of game preparation, meetings, practices, and film sessions. Game days are both busy and exciting, starting from the team breakfast in the morning, to shootaround, to film, to pregame warm-ups, to the actual game. I love every bit of it, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

He also noted that the education he received at LBC | Capital was formative to his career. "LBC | Capital prepared me very well for this career," said Surguine. "I was able to get hands-on coaching experience while I was still in school and received a great education that developed me for this career. There were a multitude of classes that also refined me for different areas of this profession."

While life is certainly busy for Surguine now, he says he's grateful for the mentors in life that helped him to achieve his goals. "Countless people at LBC | Capital and in the athletic department encouraged me and gave me opportunities when I did not deserve them," he said, "They helped me chase my dream."

Ready to chase your dream? Check out our sport management degree, available on campus and online: [lbc.edu/sport-management](http://lbc.edu/sport-management)

ADAM  
Surguine



Adam Surguine ('10) on far left.



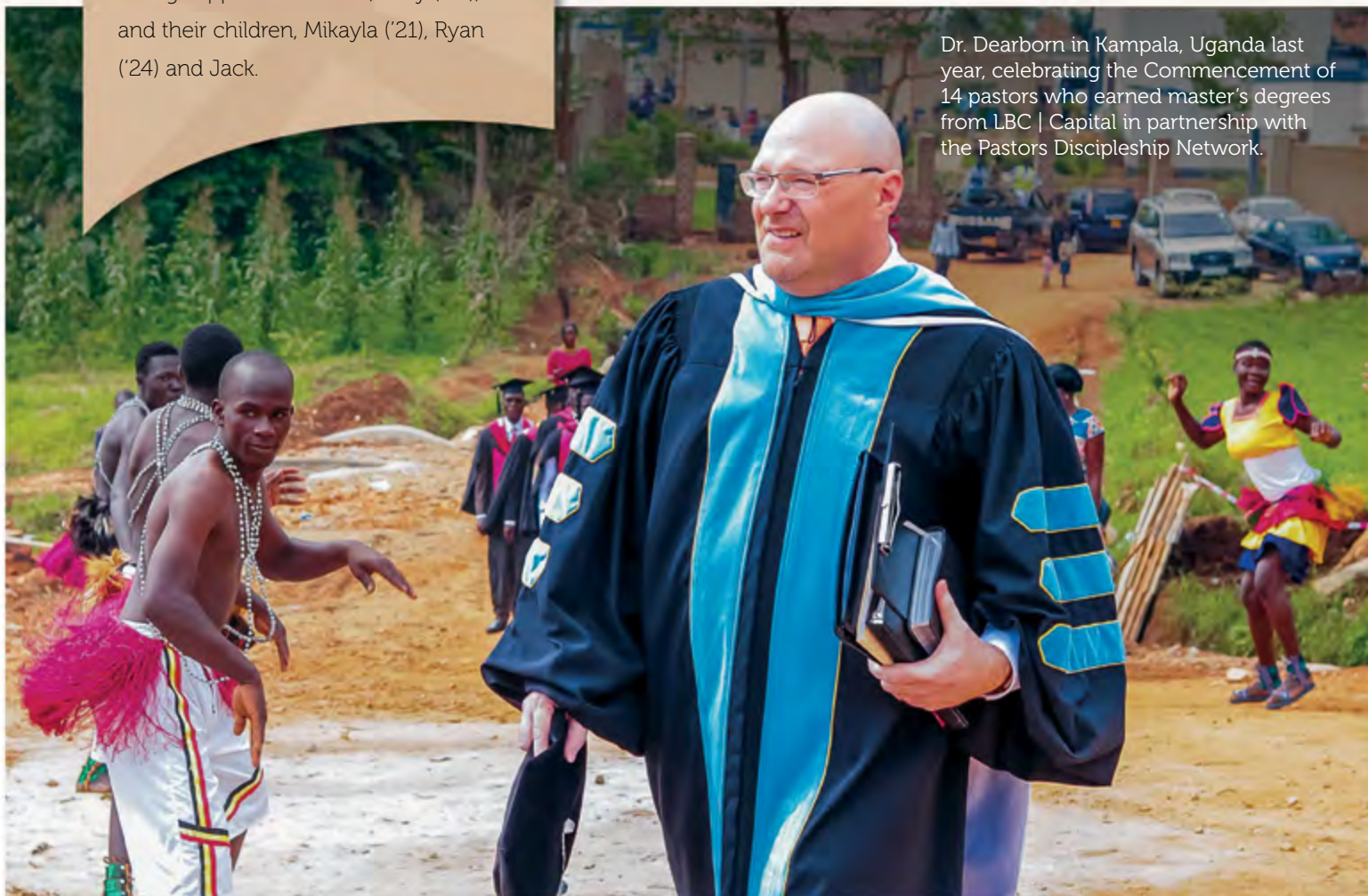
# Honoring LBC

## Dr. Philip Dearborn

Dr. Philip Dearborn ('94) has served as Provost of LBC | Capital for the past five years. A member of the class of 1994, after graduation he began recruiting in our admissions office. As he gained experience and earned additional degrees, he honed his leadership skills serving as Registrar, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and finally Provost, overseeing all academic programs at all locations. Beginning July 1, 2020, Philip will serve as the president of the Association for Biblical Higher Education, headquartered in Orlando, Florida. We are grateful for his 25 years of leadership at LBC | Capital with the loving support of his wife, Amy ('94), and their children, Mikayla ('21), Ryan ('24) and Jack.



Dr. Dearborn in Kampala, Uganda last year, celebrating the Commencement of 14 pastors who earned master's degrees from LBC | Capital in partnership with the Pastors Discipleship Network.





# Capital Legacies



## Mr. Joshua Beers

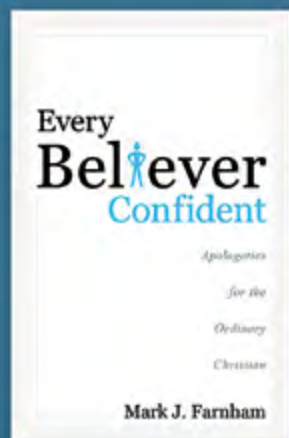
Mr. Joshua Beers joined the leadership of LBC | Capital in 2006 as the Vice President of Student Services. During his 14 years at LBC | Capital, he also served as Vice President of Enrollment Management and Senior Vice President of Student Experience. Josh combined his love for sports and students by leading the men's soccer team as head coach for three years and was named two-time NCCAA East Region Coach of the Year. He is known for putting students first in all he does—whether leading recruitment teams or meeting with families during the admissions process. Josh and his wife, Anna, and their four children, Breanna, Mikayla ('23), Moses and Zofia, have been an integral part of the LBC | Capital family. Beginning May 2020, Josh will assume the presidency of OneLife, a gap-year program for high school graduates. We are grateful for his service to LBC | Capital and know he will continue to care for and disciple students.

Josh Beers among students cheering for the LBC | Capital Chargers at an athletic event.





# Faculty Accomplishments



**Dr. Tim Nicholls ('95, '04)**, an assistant professor in the Bible & Theology department, successfully defended his dissertation titled, "The Convergence of Discourse Analysis and Rhetorical Criticism in Luke 3-5." This completes the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David in Wales, UK.

**Dr. Julia Hershey ('98)**, the Education department chair, successfully defended her dissertation titled, "The Development and Practice of Teacher Leaders: A Phenomenological Study in Christian Schools." This completes the requirements for the Doctor of Education Degree in Curriculum & Instruction (to be conferred May, 8, 2020) from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

**Dr. Mark Farnham**, a professor in the Bible & Theology department, published his first book, "Every Believer Confident: Apologetics for the Ordinary Christian," through Deep River Books. The book is written to help Christians gain a basic confidence and effectiveness in sharing the gospel with anyone they meet.



**Dr. William Glass ('92)**, an adjunct professor in the Bible & Theology department, published his first book, "Satan's Twelve Strategies: How to recognize them - The outward forms they take - And God's plan to defeat them," through Trilogy Christian Publishing. Currently in the final editing phase, "Satan's Twelve Strategies" not only explains the spiritual battle and identifies the spiritual and physical operatives Satan uses, but gives God's answer and plan for overcoming those schemes.

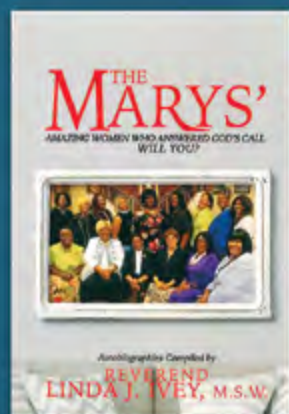
**Dr. Sophia Ogunlana ('06)**, the program director of the Clinical Mental Health program in the Counseling & Social Work department at the Washington, DC location, and her husband, Dr. Kolawole Ogunlana, released the app called "TM Wellness" in the Apple/Android stores. This free app provides encouraging quotes, mental health resources, and exhilarating chat communities.



**Dr. Harold Kime ('70)**, distinguished professor, recently published "Structure Maps of the Epistle to the Romans: English Edition," available at amazon.com. This resource complements his earlier commentary, "Romans - A Reasoned Defense of the Gospel."

**Dr. Stacey Martin**, associate professor in the Education department, presented at the Lancaster Learns conference on February 28, 2020. In her session titled, "Increasing Student Engagement Through the Hybrid Rotational Model in the Higher Education Classroom," she presented on her usage of the hybrid rotational model in her math methods course.

**Tom Fox ('08)**, adjunct professor in DC, now holds the position of Personnel Development Director for Open Air Campaigners, USA serving on the Management Team. Tom also serves as the North America - Caribbean Zone Director for Open Air Campaigners International.



**Dr. Kurt Miller**, program director of Social Work in the Counseling & Social Work department, has been a trainer for the University of Pittsburgh Child Welfare Resource Center since 1999, training front-line caseworkers and supervisors in child welfare practice across the state. In 2018, the Resource Center implemented a model of delivery involving team-based learning and simulation to train staff. Dr. Miller was selected as one of the trainers of instructors to launch this new training modality. The modules include: Introduction to Interviewing, Safety Assessment, Family Service Planning, and Permanency Planning. Dr. Miller incorporates team-based learning and a high level of interaction in all of his classes at LBC | Capital.

**Dr. Dale L. Mort**, professor emeritus, recently chaired a Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation evaluation team to Princeton Theological Seminary.



**Linda Ivey**, an adjunct professor in the Counseling & Social Work department, has published two books. The book titled, "The Marys," is the autobiographies of women who have answered the call to ministry. The other is the accompanying journal.

**Dr. Debra Johnson-Cortesi ('07)** and **Michelle Bly**, both instructional designers with the Office of Digital Learning, have been invited to present at the Distance Teaching & Learning Conference in Madison, WI this coming August. Their presentation, an interactive 90-minute workshop on Developing an Activity Catalog for Creative Course Design, was selected in an early round of proposal reviews and scheduled to fill one of the special slots that requires participants to pay extra to attend.

**Thom Scott**, assistant professor in the Communication & Media Arts department, will be speaking at the Brewer Institute Conference (for non-profits) in San Diego, CA, February 22-25, 2021.

**Joshua Novalis**, assistant professor in the Arts & Sciences department and instructional designer in the Office of Digital Learning, recently presented his paper, "Kissing the Earth: Incarnational Distinctives for a Christian Poetics" at the 2020 Southeast Conference on Christianity and Literature.

**Dr. Joel Badal ('14)**, part-time professor in the Church & Ministry Leadership department, was elected to serve a four-year term as Commissioner for the Commission on Accreditation during the annual meeting for the Association for Biblical Higher Education.

**Amanda Zuschmidt ('03)**, an assistant professor in the Health & Physical Education department, chaired a re-accreditation site visit to the University of Indianapolis in March 2020 on behalf of COSMA (Commission on Sport Management Accreditation) for their undergraduate and graduate sport management programs.

## Faculty Ranking Promotions

**Dr. Anjanette Bender** is now an associate professor. Anjanette is completing her sixth year of full-time teaching at LBC | Capital. She has worked alongside Martin Sauer, Business Administration Department Chair, over these years to establish the Business Administration major, our single largest undergraduate major. With her promotion from assistant professor to associate professor will also come a promotion to lead the traditional undergraduate programming efforts within the Business Administration department.

**Dr. Esther Zimmerman ('19)** is now an associate professor. Esther recently completed her fourth year of full-time teaching at LBC | Capital. This past December, she earned her PhD from LBC | Capital. Her vast experience in international children's ministry movements brings a tremendous network to our Church & Ministry Leadership department. This promotion is from assistant professor to associate professor.

## New Faculty

**Joshua Novalis** has been on the LBC | Capital team for one year as a staff member in the Office of Digital Learning. Due to Dr. Justin Harbin's promotion out of that department, Joshua was promoted from a level one instructional designer to a level two instructional designer. This promotion carries with it a change in status from staff to faculty-ranked assistant professor.

**Angela Becker** has been an adjunct professor with LBC | Capital for the last year in our Education department. The addition of Angela to our full-time team allows us to fulfill the PA State requirement noted in our Special Education approval just over a year ago. She will begin at LBC | Capital on July 1, 2020.

Congrats to the Counseling & Social Work department at LBC | Capital for being named the #1 Christian College for counseling degrees! See the list for yourself here: [bit.ly/bestcounselingdegrees](https://bit.ly/bestcounselingdegrees). Visit [lbc.edu](https://lbc.edu) to learn more about our counseling degrees and licensure-track programs.





Dr. Sung Min Hong was born in New York and grew up in Korea, where he studied in college. Hong later returned to the United States and continued his education by starting on a master's degree in journalism and mass communication at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He then moved to the Philadelphia area to attend Westminster Theological Seminary, where he finished his Master of Divinity in 2005 and continued on to earn a doctorate in hermeneutics and biblical interpretation. Hong is an experienced professor and scholar and has taught at several seminaries and Bible colleges as an adjunct faculty member, including at LBC | Capital's Philadelphia location.



“By understanding other cultures and traditions, we can look at ourselves more reflectively.”



## Learning From Cultures Within the Classroom

By Jessica Whitmore

On February 10 and 11, the Philadelphia location of LBC | Capital was honored to host an exclusive, invite-only conference for local pastors of Korean churches and congregations. Dr. Thomas L. Kiedis, president of LBC | Capital, attended the event and had the chance to interact with a number of influential pastors from the Philadelphia area. According to Rev. Zachary Ritvalsky, site director of the College's Philadelphia location, the purpose of the event was to build connections with area pastors and find ways to support each other's missions.

While Dr. Sung Min Hong, adjunct professor at the Philadelphia location of LBC | Capital, wasn't able to attend the conference because of a lecture he was giving in New York, he says the conference is a very good approach by LBC | Capital to understand, learn from and experience other cultures.

“It is important to understand different cultures by communicating with each other. To hear from the Korean pastors, the school cannot only understand some different cultural aspects and context, but also compare the place where it stands,” he shares.

This approach is not limited to just conferences, however. It already happens within the classrooms at LBC | Capital's locations. As it says in Galatians 3:28 (KJV), “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Hong highlights that while we are all one in Christ as clarified in this passage from Galatians, many differences exist among cultures. “Basically, to learn from other cultures is to learn and

understand the man,” Hong explains. “We can learn other perspectives of life, thoughts, ideas and so on from others. In class, if there are students who have diverse traditions and cultures, we can learn, such as in my biblical hermeneutics class, the Scripture more richly. It is also self-critical and a self-reflective process. By understanding other cultures and tradition[s], we can look at ourselves more reflectively. It gives students, and also me, broader and expanded perspectives on things.”

Even though he is the professor teaching the students, the students are also teaching him.

“As a Korean, I learn a lot from my students,” he shares. “Most of my students are African American. I have learned from them, especially about social justice and practical application of the Scripture. Usually, I explain my case as a Korean and ask my students the same case. The responses from my students are amazing. Of course, sometimes it can be similar, but we have different life-settings, so solutions, answers and approaches are really different.”

It doesn't take just a classroom for these types of conversations to be had with other cultures. They can happen in any setting. “It is a very basic thing to understand oneself as well as other people,” Hong further shares. “It also gives one various life experiences indirectly.”

Hong elaborates that if a similar topic exists among different culture groups, an opening then exists for further discussion or even a conference on that topic so people can learn from various positions, cultures and traditions surrounding the subject.

To learn more about the programs offered at our Philadelphia location, visit [lbc.edu/philadelphia](http://lbc.edu/philadelphia)

# President Emeritus Receives Prestigious ABHE Award

DR. PETER W. TEAGUE HONORED FOR COMMITMENT TO ACCREDITING BODY

**L**BC | Capital is pleased to announce that former president Dr. Peter W. Teague, received the Biblical Higher Education Award from The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). This award honors Dr. Teague's commitment to champion the cause for biblical higher education and networking among institutions and the larger Christian community.

ABHE is comprised of more than 200 institutions of biblical higher education and is one of the accrediting bodies of LBC | Capital. To receive this award, the candidate must be a committed Christian who demonstrates a life of integrity, must have made significant contribution to the Association, and has ensured integrity and consistency in



implementation of the Association's standards and policies, among other qualities.

"I am so thankful for the many friends and mentors who are a part of our Association

who have taught me, blessed me, and encouraged me and who have rekindled my inner spirit these many years while serving together," says Dr. Teague. "For me, the significance of this award is tied directly to the ABHE friends who have so positively influenced my life."

Teague was president of LBC | Capital for 21 years and now serves as President Emeritus and LBC Ambassador. During his tenure, LBC | Capital's enrollment tripled in size. Under Dr. his leadership, LBC | Capital emerged from a quiet existence to one of growing prominence. National recognition ranges from the Association of Biblical Higher Education to the Wall Street Journal.

## Celebrating the Class of 1979

By Estelle Reichert ('11 & '17),  
Director of Alumni



**N**ear the end of 2019, the class of 1979 gathered in the Teague Learning Commons to celebrate their 40th class reunion. It was a sweet get-together for not only the graduates but also for spouses that were able to join and see one another after many years.

While sitting down to a meal together, each graduate shared a brief update about what life has looked like for them and shared highlights of the journey on which God has taken them. It was a blessing to hear the reoccurring theme: God is indeed in control and ever-

faithful. Many affirmed that although their degree and plan leaving LBC | Capital was to enter full-time ministry, God redirected them to different vocational opportunities that allowed them to minister in ways they never fathomed. The biblical foundation offered at LBC | Capital played a pivotal role in their work and ministry!

As the new Director of Alumni, my own faith was deepened listening to these alumni share their stories of everything from

loss and sorrow, to joy and unexpected blessings. What a great reminder that our stories and experiences are uniquely crafted by our Creator to be a testament and encouragement to those around us.

If you have a major graduation year anniversary approaching and are interested in having a special gathering, please reach out to [alumni@lbc.edu](mailto:alumni@lbc.edu).



A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a bright pink, sequined, wide-collared garment with gold trim. She is looking upwards and to the right with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus.

## THE REVIEWS ARE IN: **RUTH was a Hit!**

This past January, LBC | Capital was proud to present **RUTH**, an original Sight & Sound Theatres production. LBC | Capital's performances of the show represented the first time Sight & Sound licensed an original show. Over 8,000 people came out to see it!







## Join Our Alumni Facebook Group

Hey there, alumni! If you're looking for another way to connect with LBC | Capital, join our Facebook group! This group is for our alumni, former and current students from LBC | Capital, Washington Bible College, Capital Bible Seminary, and all of our locations and partnerships. You might even find some current and former faculty members in the group as well!

When you join, here's what you'll get:

1. Access to the network of other LBC | Capital graduates and former students
2. Hear special updates first
3. Get exclusive offers
4. And more!

What are you waiting for? Join the 1,000+ other alumni in our Facebook group today! Just login into your Facebook account and search for Lancaster Bible College Alumni.

John & Sharon Metzger



John J. Oberholzer



Howard Houtz



Alan & Sandra Rathbun



Steve Taylor



Margo J. Farneth



David & Jenny Ingraham



Jonathan Braunstein



## 1970s

**John (WBC '70, Capital '04) and Sharon (Savidge) Metzger (WBC '68)** moved this year from Lititz, PA to Matthews, NC and have been involved in Jewish work for 23 years with Ariel Ministries ([ariel.org](http://ariel.org)). John has absolutely no plans of retiring. By spring 2020, they will have been blessed with 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. John has recently published his sixth book ([PromisesToIsrael.org](http://PromisesToIsrael.org)) and is currently working on a Jewish study Bible for Ariel Ministries.

**John Jacob Oberholtzer ('71)** died on December 16, 2019 at Landis Homes, Lancaster, PA after a brief illness. He was 97 years old. John was a retired farmer and former Upper Leacock Township supervisor. He and his late wife Rebecca were married March 13, 1946.

## 1980s

**Nancy (Davis) Merrey ('83)** has been an active volunteer at Maryland New Directions in Baltimore, MD for almost five years; a non-profit that provides no-cost job training and employment placement for people in transition. She leads employment exercises and special workshops, assists with resume writing and job searches and fills in as receptionist. She was recently recognized by the Maryland Governor's Office on Service & Volunteerism for her work in Baltimore.

**Howard D. Houtz ('83)** retired from Calvary Bible Church, Lewistown, PA, in August 2019 after 30 years of ministry at CBC. He is enjoying retirement and having more time to spend with his three children and seven grandchildren. He continues to seek ways to serve the Lord.

**Alan ('87) and Sandra (Apple) Rathbun ('88)** live in Harrisburg, PA. Alan serves as the Director of Multiplication in eastern PA and as the Northeast Regional Coordinator for Church Planting for the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Sandra founded "Tender Hearts" preschool in Harrisburg after graduation and has enjoyed a rewarding career in early childhood. They have two sons, a daughter and a recently added daughter-in-law.

**Steve Taylor ('86)** (pseudonym used for security reason) has published an autobiography concerning his 17 years of living in Turkey as a missionary. Each chapter in his book, "Out of the Steel Mill and into the Middle East," contains funny, frightening or faith-building true-life stories that are followed by a short devotion. You can obtain a copy of this book on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

## 1990s

**Margo J. Farneth ('96)** passed into the arms of her loving Father at the age of 59, on November 14, 2019. Margo and her husband, Rob ('96), were both members of the very first "Plus 20 Cohort," the program that is now adult education. Margo is survived by her husband.

**Steven Hoey ('99)** and his wife, Renée, are heading to Alaska to serve as full-time missionaries with LightShine International Ministries ([LightShineminstries.org](http://LightShineminstries.org)). They will be responsible for new ministry development, maintaining year-round relationships with LSIM's network of ministries in Alaska and doing prison ministry and aftercare. They are excited and honored to serve the Lord in this way.

**David and Jenny (Olson) Ingraham (WBC/CBS '98)**  
David has been serving as pastor at



SonRise Evangelical Free Church in Ada, MN for the past 10 years. This is the third church they have served at since graduating. Two of their four children have graduated and gone on to Bible college. David and their youngest daughter will be going on a missions trip to Alaska in June. Their older daughter recently returned from a missions trip to Guatemala. Last year, David and Jen became grandparents to a precious little girl, Hadleigh.

### Jonathan Braunstein ('97)

recently published his first book, "Check Your Context: A Guide to Better Bible Reading and Study," available on amazon.com. He has been married for 17 years to his beautiful wife, Brandi, and has been serving for the last 10 years as Pastor of Adult Ministries at Harvest Baptist Church in Wapakoneta, Ohio.

### Bartley Sawatsky (WBC/CBS '94)

is Lead Pastor of Renew Church, a multi-site church in the greater Toronto area. His church is part of the Charis Fellowship. He and his wife, Sarah, have four children.

## 2000s

### Albert C. Menger, III ('02)

peacefully went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on October 9, 2019 at the age of 81 after a brave fight against mesothelioma. Al is survived and missed by his wife, Pauline, who together shared 58 years of marriage. He loved his time at LBC | Capital and was excited to graduate with honors at the age of 64.

### Stephanie Chaloux (WBC, '06)

served in China for 10 years and has written a book sharing her experiences from living there. To read Stephanie's story, pick up a copy of her book, "China Is Not for

Everyone: But It Was My Home for a Decade."

### Joel Day ('05) married Tara

Marziale on June 22, 2019, and moved to Watsonstown, PA. He has been working the past 13 years in Information Technology for Geisinger Health System.

**Julie Iddings ('06)** is working toward obtaining a master's degree in Human Resource Analytics and Management. In the midst of completing this degree, she began a new job as the Human Resources Director for Conestoga Valley School District. Julie aspired to become an administrator in a school district when she decided to pursue her goal of obtaining her master's and had her dream fulfilled halfway through her education. Her purpose is to give back to the students and teachers!

### Scott ('07) and Valerie (Weidner)

**Solimine ('06)** did some traveling after graduating in 2006. They led a youth ministry and taught in a Christian day care in the Lancaster area before traveling to South Korea in Sept. 2008. They both taught English and served in a beautifully culturally-diverse church until Sept. 2009. For a few months, they did PR for a small Christian camp in Indiana until March 2010. Scott is now the lead pastor of One Life Christian Church in Baldwin, NY. They have three beautiful children: Sophia, Aaron and Noah.

### Brandy Thompson (WBC '05)

Brandy is enjoying her new job as the Programs Director at North Florida Christian Camp, located in Keystone Heights, FL. Her responsibilities include collaborating with student ministry pastors from all over the state of Florida in order to create excellent Christ-centered

retreats and camp programs for all age groups.

## 2010s

### Rodney Carter ('15, '18) was

married to his beautiful bride, Cherese Carter on August 3, 2019. He is currently serving as part of the pastoral staff at the Worship Center in Lancaster, PA where he and Cherese reside. Cherese is working for LBC | Capital as the Director of Student Care in the Student Affairs department.

### Courtney (Stangl) Cook ('19)

met the love of her life, Ben Cook, at an LBC | Capital preview day in 2013. They started dating after that throughout high school, and both decided to attend LBC | Capital. Courtney sang in the Chorale, and Ben attended all of her concerts at the Trust Performing Arts Center in Lancaster, PA. She graduated in 2019 and on June 22, the two of them were married at the Trust. Courtney is now a teacher, and Ben is a software developer. They are thankful for God's many blessings.

### Christina (McLaughlin) Goss ('13, '16)

Christina served at LBC | Capital for several years as a Resident Director and Student Activities Coordinator. After completing her master's degree in Children & Family Ministry, she accepted the full-time Children's Ministry Director position at Providence Church. While serving at the church, Christina met her husband, Ben Goss. They will be celebrating their 1-year anniversary this May.

**Joshua Fulmer ('18)** Josh is faithfully serving the Lord as the Youth Minister at Hempfield Church of the Brethren.

(continued on page 41)



Bartley Sawatsky



Albert C. Menger, III



Stephanie Chaloux



Joel Day



Julie Iddings



Scott & Valerie Solimine



Brandy Thompson



Rodney Carter



Courtney Cook

# Alumni

Christina Coss



Joshua Fulmer



Rachel Verburg



He and his wife **Gloria (Steinhauer) ('19)**, along with their dog Beau, moved to East Petersburg, PA where they are excited to see how God is going to use them in this chapter of their life. Already, the Lord has allowed them to be a part of multiple baptisms, and see teens come to know the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. May God continue to be honored and praised in all of their ministry. Soli Deo Gloria!

**Adam Surguine ('10)** recently took a new job as the Video Coordinator for Florida State Women's Basketball. He, Amanda, and their son, Otto, are now living in Tallahassee, FL. Otto turns two in May and the Surguine's are excited to see what God has in store for them in the days ahead.

**Rachel (Snyder) Verburg ('17)** married Johannes Verburg on May 31, 2019. They live in Harrisburg, PA and work with ABWE, a missions-sending agency. They praise God for His grace and the beautiful gift of marriage!

## Upcoming Events

AT LBC | CAPITAL & THE TRUST PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

For more information regarding these events or to purchase tickets, please visit [lbc.edu/events](http://lbc.edu/events) unless otherwise noted. To contact the Box Office, call 717.560.8241 or email [boxoffice@lbc.edu](mailto:boxoffice@lbc.edu)

### 2020 EVENTS

**Friday & Saturday, September 25 & 26**

#### **HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND 2020**

##### **Main Campus**

LBC | Capital's 2020 Homecoming & Family Weekend is sure to be a memorable one. Come visit your alma mater and bring the whole family. We have activities for everyone! With food, fellowship and time to rekindle friendships, we're setting this weekend aside to bring the LBC | Capital family back together and praise God for the work He has done.

**[lbc.edu/homecoming](http://lbc.edu/homecoming)**



Homcoming & Family Weekend 2020



# All Is Fine

By Dr. Peter W. Teague, President Emeritus

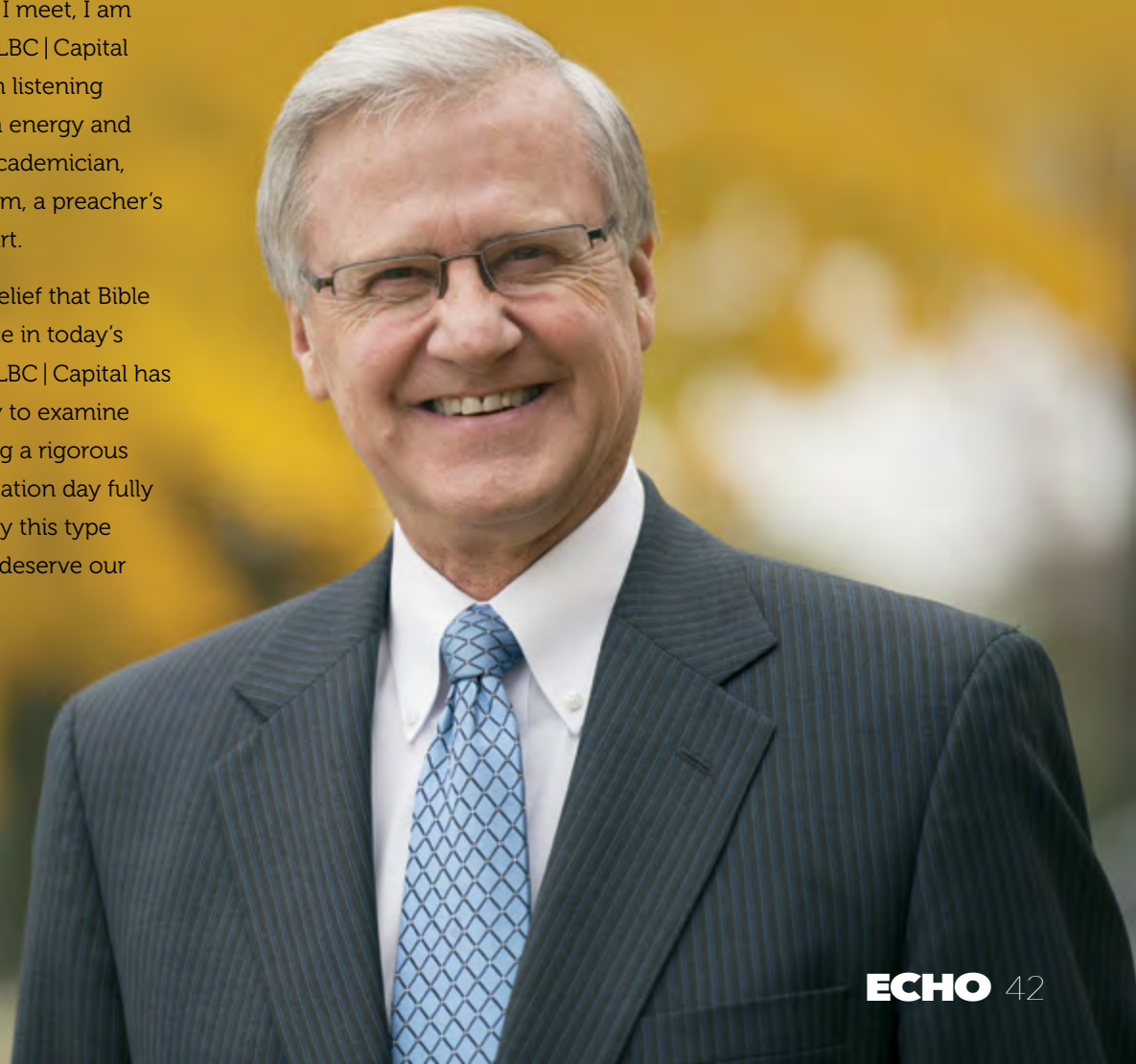
**T**he question most often asked of me in recent days is, "How do you like retirement?" A friend of mine, also a recently-retired college president, usually answers this same question by simply saying, "It's fine," without describing the complexity of emotions that come with laying down the reins of institutional power.

When I say retirement is fine, I truly mean it, due in large part to the fine selection of my successor, Dr. Tommy Kiedis. Since February 1, Dr. Kiedis and I have spent many hours together, and every time I come away with greater joy and gratitude because of his comprehension and appreciation of LBC | Capital's unwavering biblical commitment, highly-regarded academic reputation and pattern of growth and innovation. Each time Dr. Kiedis and I meet, I am assured more fully God has blessed LBC | Capital with an exceptional leader with keen listening and interpersonal skills coupled with energy and a strong, passionate faith. Ever the academician, President Kiedis has a leader's wisdom, a preacher's conviction and a pastor's tender heart.

Our new president and I share the belief that Bible colleges hold a unique and vital place in today's society. Since our founding in 1933, LBC | Capital has offered our students the opportunity to examine and deepen their faith while pursuing a rigorous academic program, arriving at graduation day fully prepared to be servant leaders. Surely this type of leader and this type of education deserve our prayerful and financial support.

According to Forbes, 50 percent of all CEOs report feelings of loneliness, and 60 percent say loneliness affects their job performance. I pray we each will do our part to ensure President Kiedis lands on the positive side of those sad statistics. In my experience, there is no better encouragement than faithful prayer partners.

And by the way, I truly am fine and enjoying every moment of my retirement. I am so thankful to know LBC | Capital is in good hands, human and divine, and for your continuing friendship and support of this Christ-centered enterprise.





LANCASTER BIBLE COLLEGE

CAPITAL SEMINARY & GRADUATE SCHOOL

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# Homecoming

*Twenty Twenty*

Save the Date: September 25 & 26

Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School's 2020 Homecoming & Family Weekend is sure to be a memorable one. Come visit your alma mater and bring the whole family along! With food, fellowship and time to rekindle friendships, we're setting this weekend aside to bring the LBC | Capital family back together and praise God for the work He has done.

[lbc.edu/homecoming](http://lbc.edu/homecoming)

