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Faith & Creativity: Using the Arts, Media and Talents to Glorify God

May 2018 | Advancement Office
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ART WITH HEART:

One Graduate's Journey to Incorporate Art into Ministry

Jeremy Miller ('03) is a graduate of LBC, a liturgical teaching artist and former missionary. He holds a bachelor's degree in Bible from Lancaster Bible College, a master's of biblical studies from Virginia Beach Seminary and a master's in Christian education from Dallas Theological Seminary. To learn more about his art or to request a speaking engagement, visit facebook.com/artbyjeremymiller

Jeremy Miller's journey to becoming an artist took an unusual route. While he was studying missions at Lancaster Bible College, now called intercultural studies, he began searching for ways to integrate his budding passion for art with his faith convictions. One day, he was given a chance to do just that.

Dr. Bruce McCracken, a former academic dean at LBC, challenged him. "In response to my petitioning for someone to teach me how to live a fulfilling life in both the arenas of art and Christianity, I was forced to work out where I stood," Jeremy explained. He was offered the chance to design and teach a new class called, "Arts in Ministry," for his senior project, which he says was a formative experience for him. "Teaching at LBC as my senior practicum was a life changing experience for me," he explained. "I struggled for several years with what it meant to be both a Christian and an artist." Jeremy took the project seriously, and asked for a year to complete research. "While my thoughts at the time barely scratched the surface on what it means to be a Christian and an artist. It formed the foundation for where the Lord has led me today," he said.

A few years after graduation, Jeremy and his wife, Anda (Adams '00) Miller, answered the call from God to serve as missionaries in Vienna, Austria from 2007 to 2009. Jeremy was hired to teach theatre and Bible at Vienna Christian School, an international school populated with children of expatriates, missionaries and international diplomats. "Aside from my ministry at the school," Miller explained. "One of the most impactful things about being in Austria was going into cathedrals and seeing the beautiful, stained glass windows and experiencing the sense of sacred space in they created as a whole. I

was in awe of the beautiful symbols, but I didn't know the significance they held." Little did he know that those strange and lovely symbols would later become the crux of his art.

Today, following advanced theological study, those symbols can be found imbedded in many pieces of his artwork. "My work is comprised largely of watercolor and ink creations that are rooted in the historic symbolism of the church," explained Jeremy. "Text from Scripture and quotations from the creeds and church fathers are often infused to focus times of devotional viewing." Colors are his inspiration. "Personally, vivid colors are very important to me," he explained. "In the midst of a dark world, they remind us that the Gospel is a message of hope!"

Teaching that class at LBC, his observations and experience in Vienna and his theological studies spurred him to become a liturgical teaching artist – which means he shares the heart of the Gospel in a visually creative way. "The term 'liturgical' has a very specific meaning," he explained. "I like to explain it this way: there are many Christian artists. However, beyond knowing them, you may not know whose they are or what they stand for by what they create. A beautiful landscape can be painted by either a Christian or a non-Christian. Common grace allows both to appreciate the beauty and reflect the Creator in capturing images of general revelation. However, as a liturgical artist, my work ties into the historic images that belong to the church. They visually tell the story of God's grand narrative through images."

Jeremy graciously gifted the college with six prints, which you can find displayed at the Lancaster campus and Greenbelt locations of LBC | Capital, in addition to one piece he gave to the college as the 2003 class gift. "I am so excited to see the strides LBC has taken in embracing artistic ministry," said Jeremy. "I am praying for even more opportunities to come alongside students who share a creative nature and remind them that God has given them gifts for specific, diversified purposes."

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WHERE'S MARY NOW?

Everyone's favorite "practically perfect in every way" nanny came to the stage of Lancaster Bible College this past January. Alli McClune ('18), a musical theatre major at LBC, loved portraying the titular role of Mary Poppins. "I am so thankful I got to learn how to be a leading role before I left college," she said. McClune's spirited performance of Mary delighted audiences of all ages, producing seven sold-out shows and enough demand to add an additional performance. But now that the stage curtains are closed, we asked: where's Mary now?

McClune is a student-teacher for dance at LBC and sang in LBC's women's choir, chamber singers and chorale. This summer, she'll be quite busy. McClune is slated to assist with Servant Stage's theatre camps for kids and will be singing in the choir for Fulton Theatre's summer production of the Hunchback of Notre Dame. Previously, McClune's acting, singing and dancing chops have landed her gigs with Servant Stage, Fulton Theatre and Opera Lancaster. On May 11, she walked across the stage in the Good Shephard Chapel where Dr. Peter Teague handed her a diploma.

What's next for this newly-minted alumna of LBC? She hopes to continue performing. "The biggest takeaway from studying at LBC is all the connections I've made," she said enthusiastically. "I've met a lot of significant people in the community. I now have connections for the rest of my life that I hope will follow me as I pursue the rest of my career."

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A THANK YOU FROM OUR HISTORY-MAKING MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Lancaster Bible College's mens basketball team made history with their second appearance in the NCAA Division III National Tournament in March. The Chargers fought for 40 minutes against Christopher Newport University, but they ultimately lost when a member of the opposing team hit a 3-pointer with 1.2 seconds remaining on the clock. Still, the fact that the basketball team made it that far was – and is – a big deal, both to the college and our team.

"It was an unbelievable experience playing in the national tournament," said Tyler Norris ('21). "I wish we could have won that first game, but it was still a lot of fun. There was so much energy and

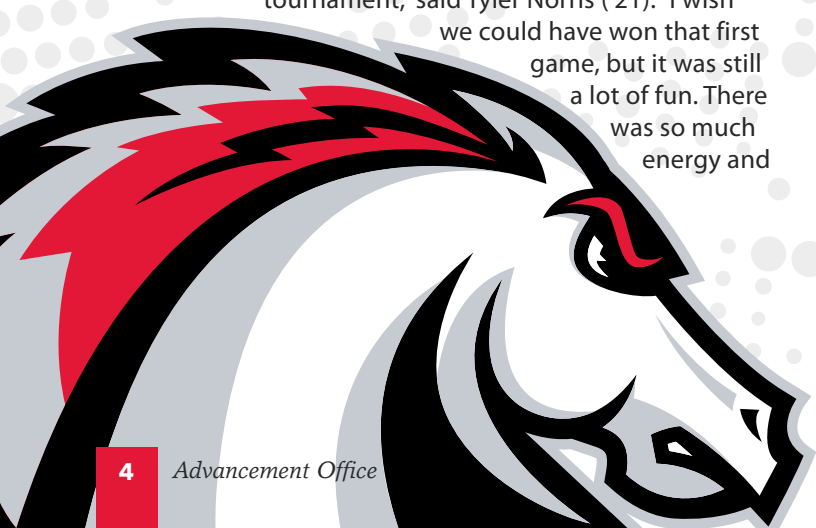
excitement in the gym, and we made the most of every moment."

Norris, a freshman from Wolcott, New York, said he couldn't imagine being anywhere else other than LBC. "Athletics teaches a person so much about how to compete – how to win and lose," he explained. "Specifically at LBC, basketball has shown me how to incorporate God into all aspects of my life and honor Him."

They made history in 2018, but Norris doesn't want it to stop there. "We really hope this is a stepping stone to continue our success," he said. "Even though we made history, we want this to become a regular thing in our program."

Norris also expressed his gratitude to the community for the continued support of the college's athletics programs. "Thank you, LBC community!" he said. "A lot of people support the LBC basketball team. I am very humbled to be a part of this team, and a community that supports us."

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5 REASONS WHY ART & MEDIA SHOULD MATTER TO CHRISTIANS

By Dr. Michael Freeman, Communication Major Coordinator

- 1 We are made in the image of a Creator (Genesis 1:27).** Therefore, we can't help but create. Some artists create in canvas or clay ... ink or iron ... pastry or pixels. Whatever medium used, every creative impulse can be a worshipful recognition of our Creator.
- 2 Something of the creator is always reflected in the creation.** As we create and consume beautiful things out of the materials and forces God has provided, we participate in the ever-expanding narrative of His beauty and goodness and contribute one more piece of evidence that testifies to His love for us.
- 3 Christ was the God of the Universe - telling stories to His children.** Jesus often taught in parables, interweaving the culture and people of His day with the wisdom and morality of His Father. This is the Creator of our intellect, the one who knit us together, revealing the mind of God in story-shaped glimpses. This is how we were formed and why we still create and share stories through art and media as we make sense of the complex world around us.
- 4 The mass media have become the great storytelling engine of our time.** Media and art are often narrative by nature. They exist to tell a story, even if that story only says, "I was here." If we want to know about the culture we live in, we have to become familiar with the stories being told through media and the arts.
- 5 Art and media provide a window into the diversity of human voices and experiences.** And so it comes full circle. To know God is to know His creation... humankind. Each new voice, revealed through art and media, adds to the complexity of a choir that sings of the majesty and creativity of God.

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LEADING THE CHARGE

The story of how one student's passion for the arts led her to the creation of LBC's fine arts magazine.

During Emily (Barto '13) Marcum's freshman year at Lancaster Bible College, the college announced the arrival of the communication major. Choosing to major in communication opened the door to something she never expected: starting a fine arts magazine.

"At the time, there was no organized outlet for the visual arts on campus," Marcum said. "Dr. Michael Freeman was the influence behind Charge magazine – his vision for a fine arts publication was inspiring. Charge was formed to celebrate students' God-given creativity, while also creating a connection to the creative culture found in downtown Lancaster City."

Charge became Marcum's senior project. "Charge was very much a personal leap of faith," said Marcum. "I'd never started a publication before, and I found out that creating something new is much different than editing something existing." God led other people to walk alongside her, and the LBC community responded with overwhelming positivity.

Following graduation, Marcum worked for a non-profit missions agency in their communications department. "I discovered much of the non-profit world is about saying, 'Yes, we can create this!' and then figuring it out as you go," she

said. "Some of those same experiences of taking Charge from an idea to reality came into play." Now, Marcum is a writer and editor at a Chicago-area marketing agency. "Daily, I'm learning how all the pieces of marketing are connected," she said.

The magazine is still around today, inspiring our student body and local community to create - just like Marcum envisioned. Each semester, the Charge staff thoughtfully curates student and staff submissions of photographs, poems, short narratives and sermonettes, paintings and much more. "A fine arts culture not only builds community on campus but also enables LBC to have an avenue for connection in the world," Marcum adds. "Art is good for the soul. When we reflect creativity back to our Creator, we grow closer to Him."

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Studio B



LIVE FROM STUDIO B!

We sat down with two communication majors, Allison Amundson ('20) and Michael Hill ('20), to learn more about the many facets of creating and hosting an online radio show in Studio B, LBC's student-run radio station. To listen to their shows, visit lbc.edu/communication

What is your role in creating online radio shows at LBC?

Michael: Allison and I are hosts of a show [at Studio B]. We talk about interesting things that happened during our week and "throw" the conversation around – thus the title of our podcast, "Hot Potato." We started producing radio shows last semester with a talk show called, "Listen Closely."

Allison: We also had to create promotional clips of us speaking and advertising ourselves. If you hear any commercials on the Studio B radio station, LBC students made them!

Describe the radio classes to someone who has never heard of them before.

Allison: Last semester, we took the Radio Broadcast course with our professor, Kristi Leigh of local Christian music station WJTL. She takes us through and explains the whole process of starting a radio show, building a vision for the show, and

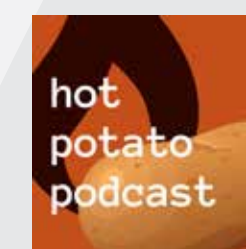
creating commercials and promotions.

Michael: The goal is to prepare us with practical knowledge and experience for internships. Students enter the field a step ahead of everyone else.

How do you think radio broadcasting will prepare you for your career after you graduate?

Michael: I had to be "live" on the radio, but Leigh was there showing me it was doable and how to do it well. There was confidence built because it was live. We learned a lot in a class setting, but there was a ton of [opportunities to gain] experience that I think is rare for a class.

Allison: When I took radio broadcasting, marketing and photography classes, I produced a lot of content. No matter what form of media it was, I realized that I love to produce. I believe the last semester was meant to figure out what I wanted to do with my major. Radio broadcast was a part of that discovery!



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