

## Even More Than A Student

The Stories Behind LBC's Accelerated Undergraduate Program

“Some people still saw me as a convicted felon, but God didn't. He knew what was in my heart. Next thing you know I'm applying to Lancaster Bible College. God put LBC on my heart.” - *Terrance Jackson ('15)*

Terrance Jackson sat alone in a muggy, dark cell in Chatham County Prison, contemplating how his life had derailed so severely. A young man with an infectious personality, he could never have imagined ending up there, sharing space with convicted murderers and drug dealers. Despite his circumstances, God was beginning to use Terrance in a mighty way.

Growing up in New Jersey, raised by his mother and grandmother, Terrance was accustomed to the street

life. Without a father to look up to, discovering what it took to be a man proved problematic for Terrance. He didn't grow up going to church; he didn't know God or want to know God. “Every man for himself” was a worldview all too real to him.

His search for meaning and purpose led him into the military at the age of 21. Unfortunately, Terrance traveled down a troubled path, far from God, while in the military. Despite his reputation as a good soldier, Terrance found himself in front of the

Army's highest court, the Criminal Investigation Command, on a felony count of fraud.

Facing the trial of a lifetime, Terrance had nowhere else to turn. Even his family had a hard time coming to grips with what he had done. It was in the midst of these dark times that God gave Terrance a reason to believe. **When everything else was slipping away, God gave Terrance hope.**

*Story Continues on Page 6*

# Even More Than Students: Accelerated Undergraduate Degree Program

Beyond the everyday of Lancaster Bible College there is a group of adult students who have either returned or begun their college educations at LBC. In 1994 the Accelerated Undergraduate Program (AUD) was created by then-president Dr. Peterson, off of the model of accelerated night classes. This design allows adults with careers, families, and everyday life responsibilities to be able to focus on one class at a time. They move toward earning their degree and achieving a goal at a flexible pace.

Director of AUD Student Experience, Sherri Colton and Assistant Dean of AUD, Dr. Mark Menga are passionate about their roles as they walk alongside AUD students. Sherri reflects on all the students who she has seen blossom under the AUD

program, “Since we interact with these students from admissions to graduation, it is amazing to watch them become so confident in their abilities, in and out of the classroom.” **There is something special about the AUD program that traditional undergraduates don’t experience. AUD students have the ability to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to their families, careers, and ministries immediately.**

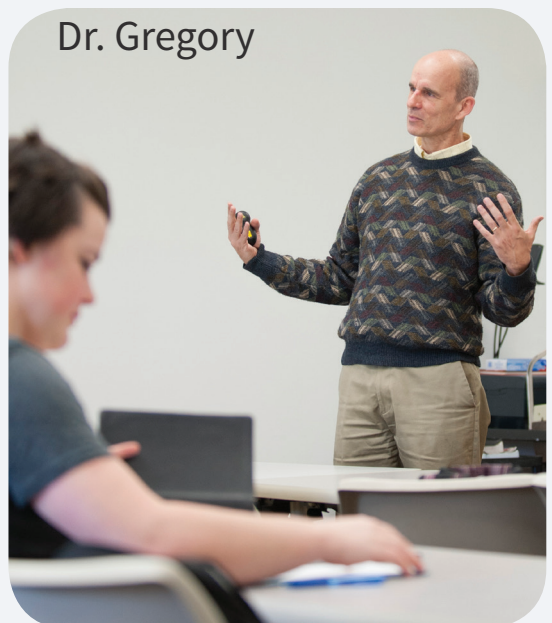
Dr. Gordon Gregory, a Bible and theology professor of both AUD and traditional undergraduate students, enjoys the classroom environment of his AUD classes, **“There is life experience that these students have that changes the questions they ask in the classroom.** A lot of these students are already involved in

ministries of their own. **Every one of them has a ministry mindset.** The students really help one another with life situations, sharing quite deeply about what is going on in their lives.” The environment surrounding the AUD program is one of **excitement for what God is doing through these individuals, right now.**

For the LBC Staff involved in serving the AUD program, there is no doubt that God is doing big things through these students’ lives. Sherri Colton sums it up with this, “The AUD Program gives adults the opportunity to go back to school and finish something they may have started decades ago or to pursue a college degree for the first time in their lives. **It is an amazing thing.”**



Photo on Left of AUD Staff (from left to right): Sharon Stephens, Sherri Colton (Director of Adult Learning Service), Chela Crouse, Mark Menga (Associate Dean of AUD), Tricia Nicholls, Mark Wilson, Angie Holsinger.



Dr. Gregory


Dear Friend,

With Christ-centered leadership, LBC remains dedicated to our mission. It frames our success. We are steadfast in educating “Christian students to think and live a biblical worldview and to proclaim Christ by serving Him in the Church and society.” Yet, we also know that times have changed since our founding in 1933. To remain relevant in today’s fast-paced society, we have enriched our educational methods without sacrificing our mission. When Dr. Peterson spearheaded our Accelerated Undergraduate program, he set the stage for transformational educational experiences for these adult students. Terrance’s story is an incredible example. Our AUD students are life-engaged. They have families and jobs. They volunteer in their communities and churches. They are mission minded. Attending college courses adds to their already demanding schedules. LBC proactively navigates road blocks our adult students face so they can concentrate on their education. We strategically journey with them from admission to graduation as they focus on earning their degrees.

The Charles Frey Academic Center (CFAC) has also transformed our students’ educational experience. It is the nerve center for our AUD programs. With our student support specialists working next to our academic departments, the CFAC has created a collegiate synergy never before seen on campus. Our online education department assists the faculty in creating course content. The technology-driven classrooms enhance collaboration between students and faculty. The CFAC provides the structure for the creation, delivery and support of LBC education. We have increased efficiency, increased communication and condensed the academic engine of LBC.

LBC made a strategic investment in adapting our educational methods. This investment has launched new programs and led to growing enrollment. Join us in this investment in LBC students. Support the growth of biblical higher education with a gift to the Charles Frey Academic Center. Our campaign goal is \$8.57 million for this \$12 million transformative building. With your gifts, you are investing in the future Church, as our students and graduates are the head, heart and hands of Christ around the world.

Sincerely,



Dr. Phillip Dearborn, Provost

Learn more  
about Charles Frey  
Academic Center and  
how your investment  
impacts our students.  
Visit [LBCGive.com](http://LBCGive.com)



“I prayed for God to wreck my life. He didn’t waste any time”

Ashley Porter



## A Life Surrendered:

It was only a few years ago that Ashley Porter had an encounter with God that changed the direction of her life forever. **“I had been trying to do life on my own**, trying to make everything go right on my own strength. I had dropped out of school and isolated my son and myself from community. Then one night as I was walking up the steps of my apartment, I became overcome with the inability to move any further. I heard God tell me in that moment that I wasn’t going to get any further in life on my own.” Ashley recalls that moment with clarity. That night, she didn’t waste time as she cried out to God to wreck her life. After that pivotal moment, Ashley’s life began to transform.

Months later, Ashley started a ministry

called Goal Getters which focuses on youth seeing the potential of their life. She began to use her life experience as she impacted youth in her community. Through Goal Getters, **Ashley began speaking, mentoring, and equipping young people to be able to pursue their life’s purpose in Christ.** As Goal Getters grew, Ashley became aware of her need for education and training. She soon came across Lancaster Bible College and felt drawn to it right away. She was accepted and is now studying towards a degree in Biblical Studies and Counseling.

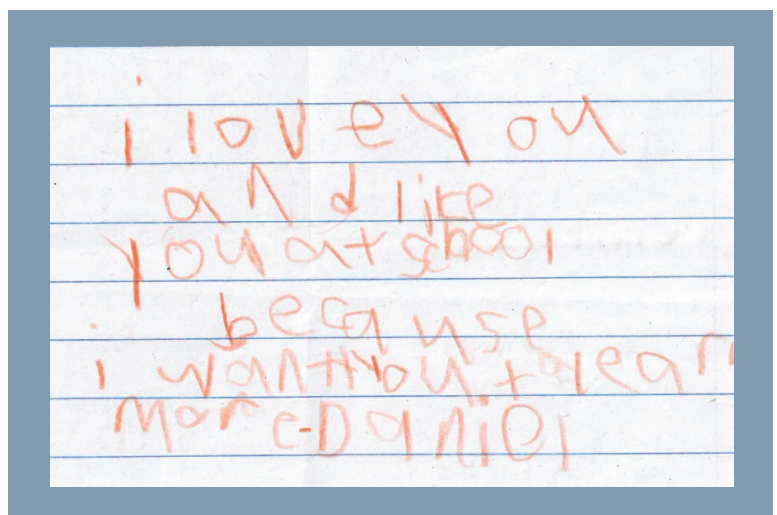
As Ashley approaches her final year before graduation, she is grateful for the ways that Lancaster Bible College has already impacted her, as well as her ministry. From becoming

a more effective speaker and teacher, to receiving biblical knowledge that reminds her of her identity in Christ, Ashley reflects on her time at Lancaster Bible College with joy, talking about some of the impactful books she’s read in classes and the guidance she has received from professors. The difficulty of running a ministry, raising a son, and being a full time student can weigh on Ashley’s focus. Amidst all the chaos of life, Ashley wouldn’t change a thing. She reflects on her time as a student, **“Through going back to school at Lancaster Bible College I have not only furthered my education, but I have found a new freedom in Christ - A freedom to be authentic in who He has created me to be.”**

“I love you and like you at school because I want you to learn more.” - Ashley’s Son Daniel (Age 5)

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# Finishing What She Started

“I felt the pull to come back and finish...”

It's hard to define Carollynn Pettis with just one word. She wears a multitude of hats: a mom of three, a homeschool teacher, a wife, a nanny, and a youth leader. On top of all of those responsibilities, Carollynn is back in school full-time, pursuing her bachelor's degree in Bible. Hers is one of the many stories we encounter as we take a look at a diverse group of Lancaster Bible College students enrolled in the AUD Program. **They are students, but EVEN MORE, they are moms, pastors, bankers, construction workers, foster care parents, and business owners - each one with a unique story to share.**

Carollynn grew up in a Christian home encircled with godly role models. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at a young age. Eager to share her faith with others, she loved teaching about the Bible. By the age of 15 she

was already teaching Sunday school classes. After high school, her desire to teach brought her to Lancaster Bible College. With just a semester left, her college career came to a grinding halt. Her mom was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Carollynn, as the oldest of six siblings, took on the responsibility to care for her mom and her family.

Almost thirty years have passed and Carollynn is back on the campus of LBC. Those years have taken her through marriage, the death of loved ones, seeing her husband go to college, raising and homeschooling three kids, to even earning her Associate Degree in early childhood education at Harrisburg Area Community College. Through it all, her desire to finish what she started at LBC has always remained.

“I felt that pull to come back and finish

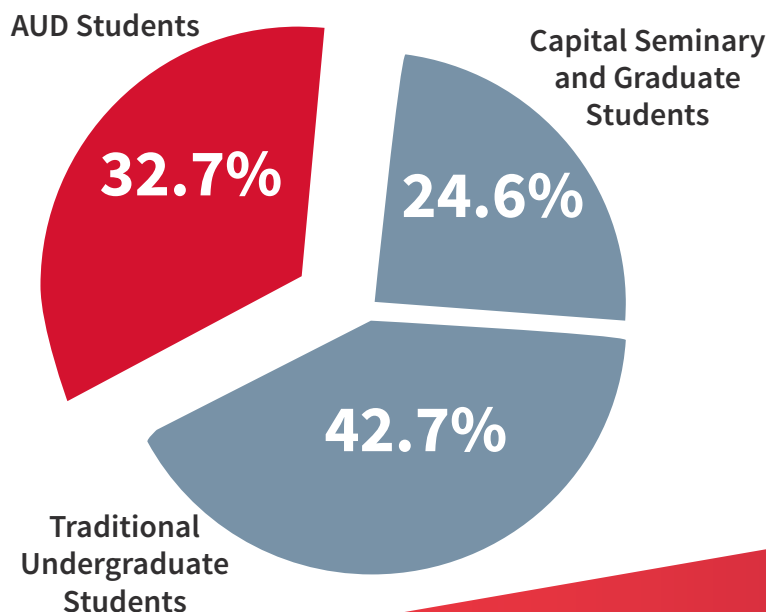
what I started so long ago. I called LBC not knowing anything about the AUD Program at all. I was told about the program and got very excited about it. I was really nervous about coming back to school because it had been so long, but my professors like John Smith made me really comfortable. I am so glad that God saw fit to give me Mr. Smith as my first professor.”

After decades of selfless sacrifice for her family, Carollynn now gets to follow her dreams. **She is not only pursuing a degree, but she is pursuing a deeper relationship with God.**

“Learning more about the Lord has been the most rewarding part of going back to school - feeling like some of the things I struggled to understand, I'm now beginning to understand.”

“My kids always have a smile on their face when they talk about their mom being back in school.”

Carollynn Pettis



Our AUD Students are from 33 States reaching as far south as Texas and as far west as California.

## Terrance Jackson (Continued from Page 1.)

Sitting alone in his empty barracks, Terrance found an orange Bible and immediately opened it up to the book of John. **He started praying out to God, unsure if God was even listening or even existed.** His cries out to God that night stirred something deep within his heart and the prayers continued. With a remarkable transformation at work, Terrance starting praying daily and opening up that orange Bible he had discovered. One Sunday morning he found himself at a local church and eventually got connected with a men's Bible study. He was soaking up every chance he could to learn more about God and grow in his relationship with Jesus Christ. As his court date and prison sentence

loomed, Terrance was bracing for the worst. For a felony count of fraud, he was facing a dishonorable discharge from the military, loss of his benefits and pension. And he was facing a minimum of fifteen years in prison.

As Terrance sat in the courtroom awaiting the judge's verdict, he was stunned by what he heard. The judge reduced his felony count of fraud. Instead of facing fifteen years, Terrance was sentenced to six months in prison! The judge even allowed him to remain in the military. **A miracle only God could produce!**

That moment, God poured out His favor on Terrance as he intentionally pursued the Lord. **It was in his darkest moments that he learned**

**who God was and how to put his trust in Him.** Terrance spent his time in prison engaged in God's Word and sharing his faith with inmates through one-on-one conversations and Bible studies.

With a deep desire to grow in his relationship and knowledge of God, Terrance sought out a Christ-centered education and found himself at Lancaster Bible College where he enrolled in the AUD Program. Terrance graduated in December 2015 from the Greenbelt, MD Campus and hopes to continue his education through Capital Seminary and Graduate School. Through the mess of life Terrance saw God take it and turn it into a message of grace and purpose.

## Even More Than A Student



One of the technology-centric classrooms in the Charles Frey Academic Center, providing a collaborative classroom environment.

*“Sometimes God sets us aside for a time or in some way. We may not understand why or like it very much, but we can rest assured that He has a purpose in it and will use it for our good and His glory. Nothing is ever wasted with God!”*

*Tracy Palmer*



## Always Serving

A Lancaster County native, Tracy (Moore) Palmer grew up around LBC. Her father and brother are both LBC graduates. Following in their footsteps, Tracy earned her Associates of Arts degree from LBC in 1984. In 2002, Tracy returned to LBC to serve in the Advancement Department. **She didn't come to LBC merely to work; she came to LBC to serve.** When she was not at LBC, she could still be found serving donors and students on her own time.

Always pursuing improvement, Tracy re-enrolled in the degree completion program (Accelerated Undergraduate Degree program), completing her bachelor's degree in 2004. In 2010, a position opened in financial aid, and Tracy was encouraged to apply to advance her career.

Karen Fox, Director of Financial Aid recalls, "Tracy was meticulous and detail oriented...but even more significant was her heart and compassion for students and customer service." Karen continues, "It was more than a job to her. She went above the call of duty. **She wanted the students to succeed; their success was her success.**"

Having completed her degree as an adult student, Tracy related to "her students" and what they were going through: balancing full-time work, evening classes, church and family obligations. It could easily overwhelm or discourage students. Tracy was able to walk beside them, encouraging those who wanted to give up.

When Tracy was diagnosed with breast cancer in August of 2013 the tables turned and "her students" started to encourage her. She bravely, and full of humor, faced surgery, chemo and radiation. Many students sent emails, notes or gifts. A student of Tracy's in the AUD program, also fighting cancer, was devastated to hear about Tracy's battle and committed to fasting and praying for Tracy. Dedicated to serving students, Tracy was back to work in six weeks, all the while going through chemo.

On her blog, Tracy wrote in October 2013: "... if everything went as planned, by November 2nd, I would be able to put this little detour behind me and return to life as normal. But God had other plans... My journey of just a few weeks will now be a

journey of almost a year."

Unknown to her, Tracy's journey would take a detour. In August of 2014, she was diagnosed with leukemia. Tracy went through chemo again as well as a bone marrow transplant and more chemo. During this battle, she worked part time from home until June 30, 2015. In the midst of her cancer fight, Tracy still wanted to serve "her students."

Ever focused on serving others, Tracy gave monthly to LBC's Scholarship Fund. But, she also wanted to make a significant gift to the college in the future. After researching several options, in 2002 Tracy designated LBC as the beneficiary of her life insurance policy.

God had a plan for Tracy, and she planned to live for and serve Him and others...even after her life on earth ended on March 28, 2016. Her final gift of over \$100,000 to LBC, via her insurance policy, benefitted LBC students to serve Him in the Church and society. Tracy gave with a servant's heart in both life and death.

## *Insure Your Legacy...*

**Contact Scott Keating to discuss how your planned gift can serve our mission and students, making a lasting impact for generations to come. Call 717.560.8279 or visit [PlannedGiving.LBC.edu](http://PlannedGiving.LBC.edu).**



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INSIDE



In his darkest moments he learned who God was



A Look at LBC's AUD Program



The AUD Program Gave Her a New Freedom in Christ

## Even More Than Students

### The Stories of LBC's Accelerated Undergrad Students



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