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Freedom to succeed

April 01, 2009 | Carmen Fleischauer

Although Rebecca Porter has never been to South America, she knows that is where she will end up. Even as a child, she felt God calling her to be a missionary. The development of her interests — in the Bible, children, Spanish and education — through various life experiences, has allowed her to better prepare for the future.

Porter's story begins with her mother's desire to learn more about the Bible. Her mother enrolled in the Liberty Home Bible Institute (LHBI) because of its broad range of information. After repeatedly asking her parents to allow her to complete the program, Porter began the LHBI at 13 years of age, the youngest person to ever enroll.

"I thought it was a really great program, and I just loved it," Porter said.

Porter was so committed to the program that she did it simultaneously along with her high school studies. She didn't even break for the summer.

"That summer I worked at a camp in Quebec. After working all day I'd be exhausted, but I'd get back to my room, pull out the book and I'd be reading and learning more. It was so much new information, and it was really interesting," said Porter.

After completing LHBI, Liberty University was a natural college choice because of the amount of credits that transferred in. However, she didn't just stop with LHBI, but also enrolled in LU Online's Edge program. The Edge is specifically designed for juniors and seniors to earn college credit before graduation from high school. Additionally, Porter used the College Level Exam

Program (CLEP) to test out of a few general education classes. She received an associate's in general studies during high school, even before arriving at LU as a full-time student.

Porter came to Liberty's campus in fall 2007 and will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and religion. She also plans to stay to finish up a second bachelor's degree in music. Because Liberty allows undergraduate students to take graduate courses if they are within a few hours of graduating, Porter has also begun a master of arts in education.

Outside of academics, Porter is involved in activities that support her desire and help prepare her to be a missionary. Among other activities, she routinely works with Campus SERVE and teaches a 2-year-old class Sunday mornings at Thomas Road Baptist Church.