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Memories of the LU History Department

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Jordan Alexander

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My fondest memories of being in the History Department as an undergraduate student, include my first history class, Western Civilization I, with Professor Donna Donald. I always sat at the front of each class, diligently taking notes. When lecturing, she always emphasized the five W's: Who, What, Where, When, Why and So What? She was always encouraging and available to answer questions outside class. I remember visiting Professor Donald's office to discuss a test grade, and she took time to go over the exam with me, not only pointing out my mistakes but also giving me wisdom for how I could do better on the next exam. I earned an A in her class, but more importantly, walked away with a greater respect for history as a discipline.

The history professors were always kind, had a sense of humor, humble, committed to teaching in excellence, and their Christian faith. Each faculty member spoke with meekness and authority in their lectures, which has influenced my teaching style. As a graduate student in the History Department, the professors maintained their high expectations as I matriculated through the program. I also served as a GSA for several of the professors during my graduate career.

The history professors' examples of humility, commitment to the Lord, desire for student success, and commitment to excellence, helped influence my decision to attain a Ph.D. in Public History. Although I teach at a state university and cannot overtly incorporate Christ or biblical principles into my lectures, I allow my actions, words and behavior, both in and outside the classroom, to serve as my witness. The history faculty from Liberty University have been an invaluable role in my life, and I am very grateful for their prayers, support, encouragement, commitment to Christ - hallmarks of a true historian.