

Opportunities of Dance and Leadership

By Julia Guinn

Dance has given me opportunities that inspire my service to others. I have been dancing at Miss Persis Studio of Dance for 14 years. This studio has given me the experience to develop my gift of dancing and performing. I learned to dance well at my studio, but my experience there has taught me the importance of giving back to the community. With the valuable lessons I learned at the studio, I continued my passion of dance by auditioning for and making the dance team at Nolan Catholic High School and being elected captain of the team. My gifts of service and leadership that I have learned through my years of dance will be beneficial in my future career as a speech therapist. I will have the opportunity to assist children with speech and language difficulties and serve them in their needs. My gifts from God, put to proper use, will empower the next generation to spread peace and love throughout my community.

Throughout the Christmas season and in preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus, Miss Persis Studio of Dance spreads God's love through dancing and singing. At my dance studio, we perform numerous dances at nursing homes during the Christmas season. I make an effort to take time out of my busy end-of-semester schedule to share my talent with others during the holidays. I spread Christmas cheer and use my gifts from God to bring joy to the nursing home residents. It is such a joy to give back without receiving anything in return. Dance will not always be a part of my life, but I can continue the mission of God on my career path. I will continue my academic career majoring in Speech Language Pathology to become a speech therapist. I love helping others and becoming an important part of their lives. As a speech therapist, I would have the opportunity to do this and change the lives of others for the better.

Service, as Martin Luther King Jr. said, does not require a college degree but rather “a heart full of grace.” Throughout my high school career, service hours were a requirement. To me, they were more than that; they were a responsibility. This is evident in the fact that I have exceeded the required amount of service hours every year. I desire for peace in the world, and through my gift of service, I am able to provide joy to my community which invigorates love and good relationships that will lead to peace. My experience in dance class enabled me to serve at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School, my elementary school alma mater, as a student cheer coach and choreographer. I provided in-person cheer instruction and choreographed routines. I also helped the students with cheer jumps and technique. This helped the team develop cheer and dance skills, so that they were prepared for high school cheer and dance. The students were given a chance to exercise, learn discipline, and form relationships. Through my instruction, they were able to improve in their cheer and dance abilities and “people” skills, making a direct impact on the next generation.

Leadership will be a critical characteristic in my professional career. Dance has not only provided me with creative skills to problem solve but has also increased my love for service. With my gifts of dance and leadership, I can show God’s goodness through my service to others. Wherever I go in the future, these gifts will enable me to continue to help my community and be a servant leader.