

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

UPDATE

Fall 2014 | PCCinfo.com

Commons **Grand** *reOpening.*

*See pg. 5
for a peek
inside*



From the **President**

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



If you attended PCC, you know what the Commons means to students. Throughout the years, the Commons has served as the destination for so many things: studying, relaxing, dating, eating, shopping, checking mail, and even bowling (before the Sports Center was built).

More than anything, the Commons is where students have gone to connect with each other. The purpose behind its renovation over the last year was to give students a place where they can interact with each other better than ever before.

From what students are posting on Twitter and saying to me personally, the new Commons is fulfilling that purpose. Walking through to get my favorite drink, I see students using the new features, and they look very comfortable in the new surroundings.

Whether they're enjoying a bowl of gelato, texting their friends, or working on a paper, the atmosphere is conducive to learning, relaxing, and fellowshipping.

The new Commons is also fostering greater involvement between students

and faculty by giving them a comfortable space to discuss class projects and brainstorm.

Connecting with students goes beyond a building and its benefits, however. Using technology, we've taken steps to communicate with students in a variety of other ways.

Eagle's Nest, the student intranet, continues to be refined and updated, often as the result of student suggestions for improvement.

Through the use of Blackboard Connect's mass notification service, emergency weather and campus information can be delivered to students via text, e-mail, or phone call.

In residence halls and academic buildings, Campus Connection screens

provide up-to-date information, reminders, and notifications for events of all kinds.

Our goal is to enhance our

ability to communicate with students to make their college experience even better. While our primary focus is connecting with students in the classroom and in chapel, technology enhances our communication with a new generation of students. ■

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our ability to communicate
with students to make
their college experience
even better.**



Connect with Us
PCCinfo.com/GetConnected

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Stemming the Tide of "Progress"

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Commons Grand reOpening

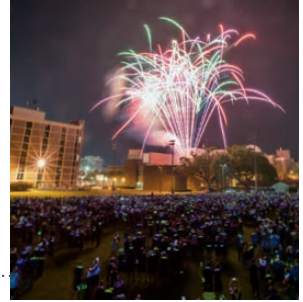
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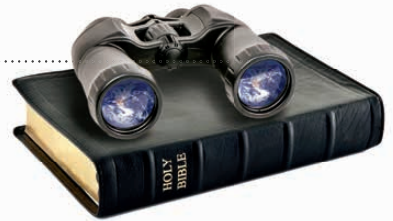
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Ken Connor



Stemming the Tide of “PROGRESS”

Many people, when they hear talk of the growing “war on Christianity,” roll their eyes and dismiss the charges as mere political hyperbole designed to fire up the values voters come election time. While it’s true that one’s Christian identity is currently not grounds for explicit political or legal persecution, there is a subtler process underway by which Christians are being gradually

pushed to the margins of public life. As the forces of secularism continue their march to dominate virtually all aspects of the culture, the faithful remnant of Christian disciples find themselves daily confronted with situations in which their religious convictions come into conflict with reigning secular dogma. The repercussions of such conflicts are significant, and increasingly, unavoidable....

This is how it will happen. The total eradication of any and all Christian influence on society will be achieved by the strategic pitting of secular norms against Christian values. “Of course Christians

are welcome to serve as OB/GYNs, so long as their personal beliefs don’t impede their ability to perform all functions of the job.” “Of course Christians are welcome to run adoption agencies, so long as they don’t allow their personal beliefs to color their policies towards

prospective clients.” “Of course Christians can run hospitals and own businesses, so long as they don’t allow

There is a subtler process underway by which Christians are being gradually pushed to the margins of public life.

their personal beliefs to influence their personnel policies.”

All of this is intended to communicate clearly that the Christian faith and the ethics and morality that flow from it have become obsolete. The problem with Christians, we’re told, is that they stubbornly cling to archaic notions of good and evil and right and wrong—or, as our President so famously put it, “guns and religion”—while civilized society has evolved to a higher level of social consciousness. They are, to borrow a phrase from the Progressive Left, on the wrong side of history. They

have no one but themselves and their own stubbornness to blame if they find themselves increasingly on the outs with mainstream society. Christians have a choice: they can get with the program, or get out of the way.

For those that would seek solace at least in the fact that America's constitution reserves a hallowed place for religious liberty, this too is going by the wayside. Under the guidance of secularist lawmakers and judges our Constitution has evolved from a document of law and order to a manifesto of radical "equality," in which the law is used as a tool of social engineering. Traditional ethical and moral beliefs are no longer considered legitimate matters of opinion, they are tantamount to hate crimes, and if the Left gets its way it won't be long before they are prosecuted as such.

More and more, the architects and operatives of the modern nanny state are utterly convinced of their moral superiority. They are the experts, the intelligent and thoughtful and enlightened ones, and hence the people best qualified to make the rules regarding what is acceptable public speech and behavior. I shudder to think what will happen if this trend is allowed to proceed

Traditional ethical and moral beliefs are no longer considered legitimate matters of opinion.

unchecked, for the forces of government benevolence have already begun making inroads into that most private realm of human life: the family. If ever there was

a clear example of the danger of a slippery slope it is evident here.

If the denizens of political correctness have already

determined that it's unacceptable to publicly question the moral legitimacy of gay marriage, how long before the State decides that it's unacceptable to teach your children that marriage is meant to be a union of man and woman? How long before it's declared intellectual child abuse to raise your children to believe in Creationism, or the divinity of Christ, or the sanctity of unborn human life?

If we wish to know what such a dystopian society would look like we need only look across the ocean at our European cousins. I only pray that enough of the American spirit remains burning in the hearts of the silent majority that we can finally say "enough is enough" and stem the tide of "progress" that is destroying this great nation.

Used by permission of the John Jay Institute. Ken Connor is an attorney and coauthor of *Sinful Silence: When Christians Neglect Their Civic Duty*. He is the Distinguished Fellow of Law and Human Dignity at the John Jay Institute's Center for a Just Society. (www.johnjayinstitute.org)



Vote Nov. 4

This election could determine America's future regarding Christian and family values. Laws harmful to your family, church, or school could pass if candidates are elected who do not share your family and freedom values. Be an informed and motivated voter. Your vote counts!

Before

Large windows and side entrances were the building's original design features.

Grand *re* Opening

Today



See it transform at
[PCCinfo.com/
NewCommons](http://PCCinfo.com/NewCommons)



▼ The ground floor features an open layout with an expansive front entrance, polished terrazzo flooring, and a wide central staircase.



After a year of renovations, the doors have opened on the newly designed Commons.

For over thirty years, PCC students have used the Commons to study with friends, relax over snacks, and even bowl (before the Sports Center was built). But like any “seasoned” building would, the Commons started to show its age through the many years of use.

So in August of 2012, Dr. Shoemaker sat down with architects to begin the yearlong process of redesigning and renovating the iconic structure.

Over 100 design and support personnel created the final look, working hand-in-hand with nearly 250 construction personnel to finish the Commons redesign by July 2014.

As the time drew closer, crews worked morning and night painting, drilling, cleaning, and putting the finishing touches on the transformed building. When the doors opened for the first time in July, only one word could describe the renovated space—breathtaking!

Circular ceiling islands, a glass balcony railing, and a polished terrazzo floor create a sleek modern feel, enhancing the aesthetic beauty of the redesigned Commons.

The central entry with preserved palm trees and a grand staircase leading to the second story lets in lots of natural light and doubles the previous seating capacity. Additional student mailboxes also meet the needs of the growing student population.

By far the most anticipated feature, the Common Grounds Café is where students, faculty, and guests enjoy specialty coffees, smoothies, gelato, and pastries. The modern lounge setting features a stone mantel and hearth with a simulated fire and ottomans with built-in USB charging stations, a detail students love. The Commons is now ready to serve a new generation of students for years to come.

[More pictures ►](#)



Before

Downstairs



- ▲ The Commons provides a variety of seating options for fellowship and study as well as a generous amount of natural light to illuminate the space.



- ▲ The Bookstore received a new name—Campus Store—and a facelift in the form of an attractive mall-style entrance.



Before



Before

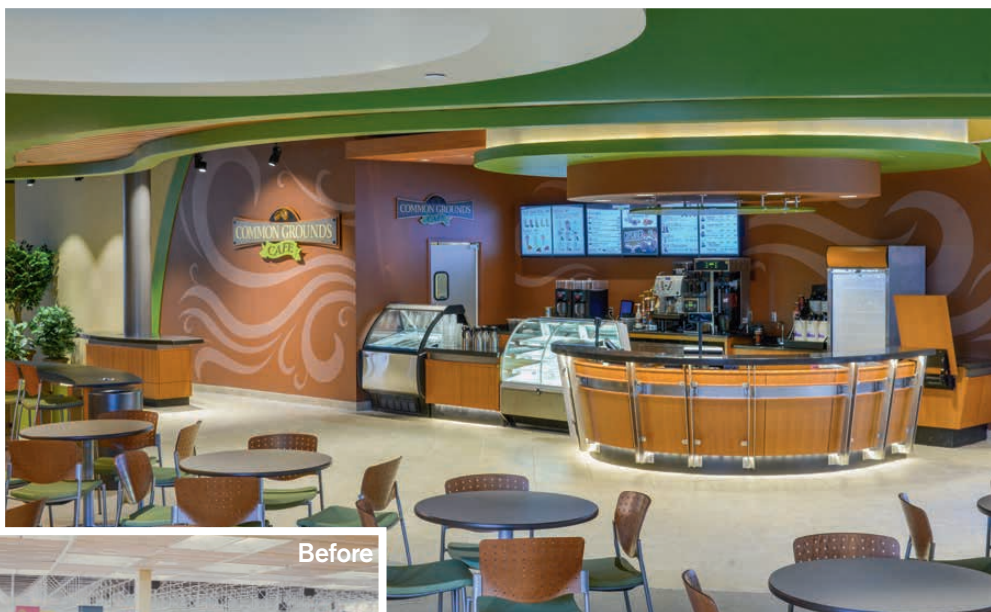
THE COMMONS

Watch the renovation happen with a time lapse video online at PCCinfo.com/NewCommons.

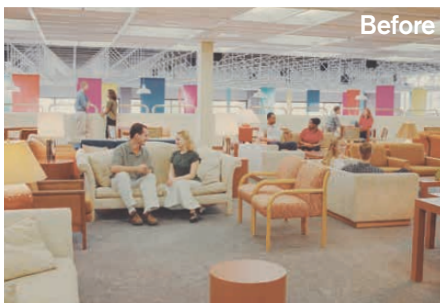
Upstairs



▲ Comfortable, modern furniture creates an atmosphere perfect for conversation and fellowship among small groups. The fireplace helps, too.



Before



▲ Named by a PCC student, the Common Grounds Café offers specialty espresso beverages, pastries, gelato, and more.

For the first time in PCC history, fireworks illuminated campus, starting the Mission Run.

Fireworks Spark Missions Run Success

2014 Missions Run surpassed last year's in every way.

One Friday evening in late April, 3,400 students, faculty, and staff members gathered on College Field, eager for the Missions Run to start. Three hundred more runners than at last year's Mission Run had come out to raise money for Bearing Precious Seed, a ministry that prints Bibles and other gospel literature. As the crowd waited, few expected to be awed by the fireworks show about to be set off.

Early in the spring semester, administration began planning the



show. **Cherise Dryden** (Jr., GA) said, "I remember Dr. Shoemaker's mentioning a surprise, but I never imagined that it would be something so enormous."

Some students claimed they knew about the fireworks. "There had been rumors," admitted Dr. Ohman, Vice President for Student Life, "but no one thought we'd pull it off." And for good reason—PCC had never in its history put on a fireworks show.



To do so, PCC hired Pyrotechnico, a fireworks company that has been lighting up the sky across the nation since 1889. The afternoon before the Missions Run, the Pyrotechnico crew came on campus and constructed their launch site atop the Visual and Performing Arts building. “They were in vehicles that were somewhat—um—nondescript,” Dr. Ohman said, pleased at the covert efforts to surprise the students.

Around 11 p.m., with their “Redeeming the Time” race T-shirts and glow sticks, the runners were already excited. But when the first fireworks screeched from the VPA building, the crowd cheered at the streams and bursts launching a night of fun for a great cause.

About halfway through the run, fireworks lit up the sky again, spurring the runners on to the finish line. “The fireworks captured the attention of the entire student body,” said Cherise. “The

experience just topped off the sense of unity among us during the run.”

The Missions Run raised \$40,000 for Bearing Precious Seed ministries—\$7,000 more than was raised last year. Even last year’s winning runner, Alan Fitzer (So., OH), beat his previous time by over a minute, winning for the second time. And with the fireworks, the 2014 Missions Run managed to surpass the previous year’s in every way.

So what’s planned for next year? “You can do a surprise like that only once,” said Dr. Ohman.

But the students are looking forward to what’s next. “I can’t imagine topping the fireworks,” Cherise said, “but I’m sure someone will think of something amazing.”

It was a night that PCC students won’t forget. And who knows how one night of fun and fireworks could spark the light of the gospel into the darkness of lost souls. ■

One night of fun and fireworks sparked the light of the gospel into the darkness of lost souls.

▶ Midnight Mission Run Videos Online

Get a glimpse of the night’s energy by watching PCC’s high-light video featuring student interviews. Then watch Bearing Precious Seed’s video showing Bibles being printed.

Scan the QR code or visit PCCinfo.com/5KFireworks.



Vision for God

New scholarship contest influenced students spiritually.

President Shoemaker's announcement this spring about a new scholarship—different from any other at PCC—generated a creative vision among the student body.

For a chance to win a \$2,000 PCC scholarship, any student could enter the contest with a vocal, instrumental, artistic, or oral interpretation of the beloved hymn “Be Thou My Vision.”

Dr. Shoemaker chose the song purposefully after students had requested it to be sung in chapel over 150 times in the past two years. With so many requests, Dr. Shoemaker decided “to come up with something that students would enjoy and that would bring an added element to our chapel services. The idea to make it a scholarship contest was a great way to build excitement about participating,” he said. “I wanted the whole student body to enjoy something new and to get involved.”

Throughout the semester, students heard performances in chapel, the first



by **Beth Stanczak** (Sr., TN) and her 3-part a cappella group. Beth said, “Lauren, Abby, and I all share Dr. Shoemaker’s vision for this college to do great things for God. We were hoping to influence the student body to jump in with

us and get excited about following this vision God has given us for our school!”

After the first performance, even more participants entered the competition. Most chose musical arrangements on piano or woodwind and stringed instruments, while others entered artwork depicting their vision of the song. Two finalists with artwork were Travis Walker (Jr., CT) for his photo and text design and Courtney Couch (Jr., IN) for her typographic interpretation.

After the 15 finalists performed during chapel services throughout the semester, it was time for students to start voting on the student intranet, *Eagle’s Nest*.

In the final chapel service of the semester, Dr. Shoemaker announced the winners. Three runners-up were awarded \$500 scholarships—Michael Muilwyk (’14, NY), Jordan Woody (So., AK), and Jimmy Bryant (’14, SC) for their string trio; Daniel Hight (Jr., NY) for his piano arrangement; and Seth Neds (So., TX) for his one man, 4-part digital a capella performance.



Next, the winner of the \$2,000 scholarship was announced. **Samara Miller** (Sr., WA) won for her solo piano composition blending the melody and

Design by
Travis Walker

Be THOU MY
O Lord VISION
OF MY HEART

lyrics of her original song "Guide My Way" with "Be Thou My Vision." She had originally composed and arranged the piece in 2012 when she was adjusting to college life, but never expected the Lord would take her work and allow it to minister to PCC's entire student body.

She said, "To have been given the privilege of sharing one of my original songs with the whole student body and hearing from so many how the Lord used it to encourage people was just amaz-

ing! My hopes are that people don't see me, but the Lord. That they don't see just the talent or just the melody or just the words but that the Lord was in and through it all."

Throughout the semester, each new interpretation gave the student body a deeper appreciation for the words to "Be Thou My Vision." The musical arrangements, artwork, and original compositions encouraged a stronger desire to draw closer to the Lord. ■

Guide My Way

by Samara Miller

Here I am LORD at Your feet a bit of a mess and incomplete,
A little scattered and confused so unsure of what to do.
Is it Your will or is it mine? Won't You open my blind eyes?
I don't want to make mistakes so I need You to guide my way.

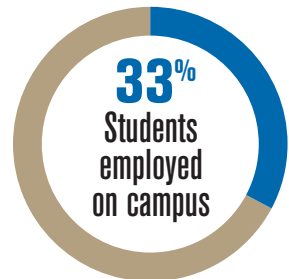
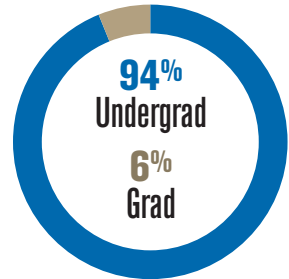
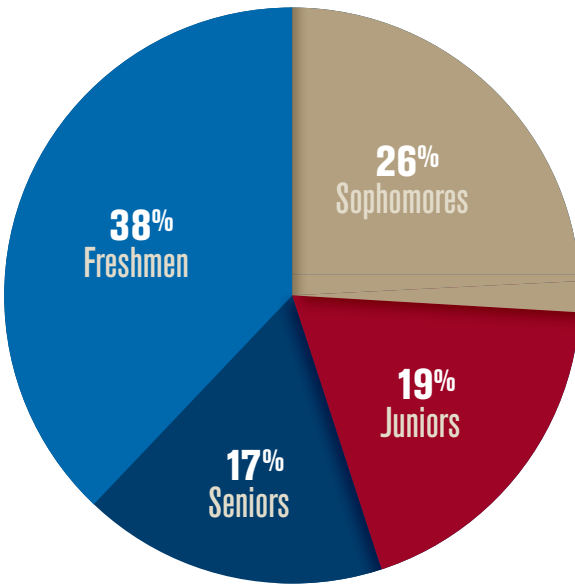
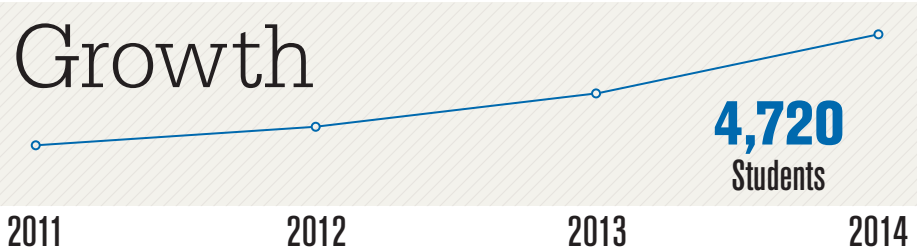
Here I am LORD at your feet in need of Your strength and perfect peace.
All these plans You have for me seem so far and out of reach.
You say "Take a leap of faith. It's a risk that you must take."
I'll admit that I'm afraid so I need You to guide my way.

Will I ever realize You're always by my side?
Will I ever come to know You're all I need and more?
I can't do this on my own.

So here I am LORD at Your feet trusting You with everything.
My heart is set on things above knowing You have overcome,
And I'll wait patiently to hear Your voice call out to me.
Take my hand and lead the way. I know that You are with me every day.

Student Body

Growth



Popular Programs

By Enrollment

14%
Nursing



7%
Elementary
Education



6%
Criminal
Justice



5%
Management



4%
Graphic
Design



by the Numbers

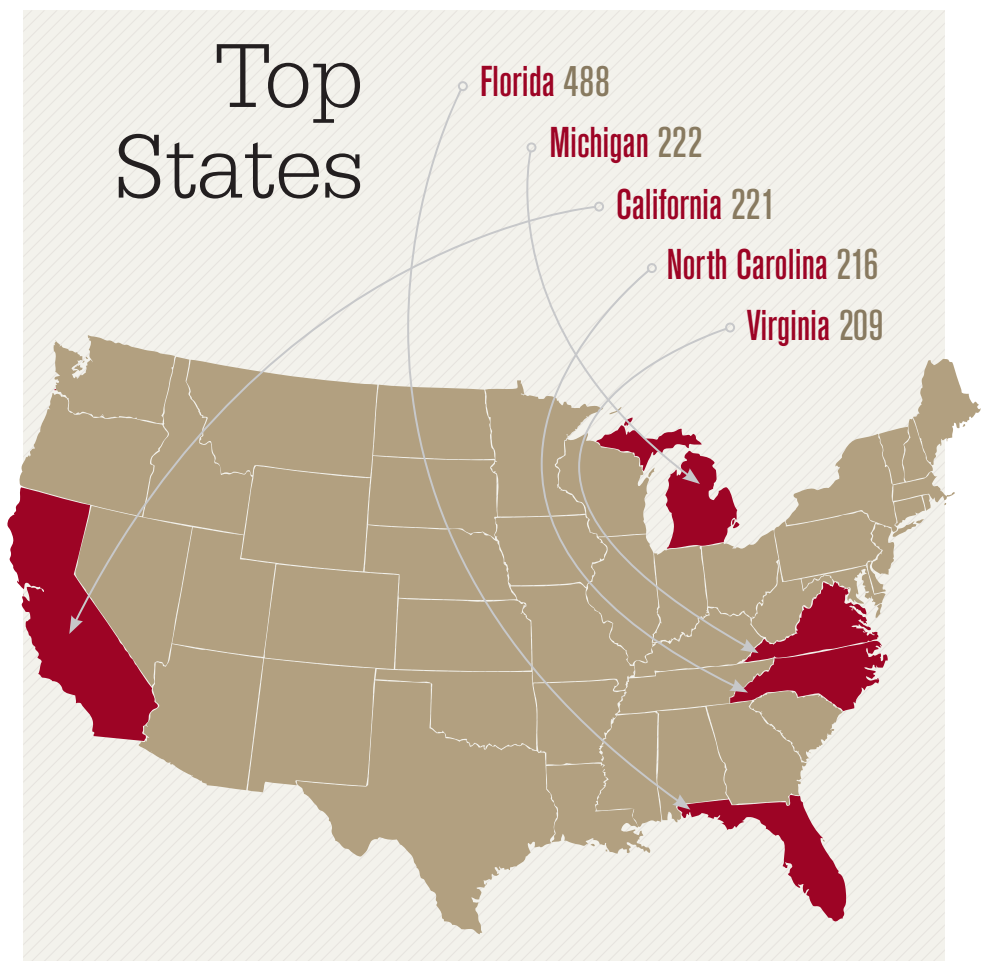


54% Female students

Male students **46%**



Top States



Top Countries





Summer Vacation or Ministry Destination?

Students traverse continents and cultures for missions.

White sands, aqua waters, glinting sunshine, and rolling hills—perhaps these come to mind when hearing of the Philippines, Honduras, Peru, Ghana, or Romania. But to seventy-seven PCC students, a different picture emerges. They see the tears of orphans crying for love, the joyful smiles of natives clutching Bibles for the first time, and the spark of hope from the simple words, “Jesús te ama” (*Jesus loves you*).

This summer, students joined Youth Outreach Ministry (YOM) missions teams to take the hope of Jesus to four continents. Many faculty and staff volunteer to lead missions teams during the summer. Teams to the Philippines and Peru used medical clinics and A Beka’s English as a Second Language education to share the gospel. Teams to Honduras and Ghana joined with local churches and used educational tools to minister to the community, and the team to Romania participated in summer camps that brought hundreds of children to the Lord.

The Peru team, led by Dr. Carlos Alvarez and Jennifer Geesling, counseled at a teen camp, set up and ran a one-day clinic in a remote area of the city, and taught a medical terminology class to healthcare professionals, in addition to teaching and holding medical screenings.



Graduate student **Gavin Lockaby** ('13, SC), part of the Peru team, said, “This was my second trip with the team. There were days that we would

leave for our ministry at 4:30 a.m. and would not return home until close to midnight, yet there was always strength and energy to continue. And not only was there strength and energy, but somehow God gave us an extreme sense of joy and fulfillment in His work. The Peruvian people all have a great sense of contentment and joy in their lives, which reminded me that true joy can be found only in the service of the King.”

Dr. Jeff Adams and his wife, Beth, led the Honduras team to the island of Roatan, where they ministered in the

SUMMER MISSIONS TRIPS

church and jail, distributed tracts, and did manual labor.

The Romania team, led by Mark Goetsch and his wife, Melany, helped missionary Brent George ('99, MA '03). He said, "In past years, PCC students have helped us at our camp property on the Ukraine border. The Romanian children love having the team come. Each year when registration for camp opens up, we have people call us to find out when the team will be here so they can be sure to register for those weeks of camp. Many of the children keep in touch with the students; they have a positive influence on the children through their Christ-like examples."

The Philippines team, led by Alex Fulfer, worked with orphans, church ministries and evangelism, Christian education seminars, medical outreach, pastoral seminars, and the jail ministry. They also held Bible clubs and fed the groups of people and orphans who live in the city's dumpsites.

Charis Bowman ('13, FL), Philippines team assistant, said, "Although the college students are hesitant, even fearful, at first when they encounter the different ministries, it's great to see their change as they interact with the people. By the end of the trip they have opened up and allowed the Lord to fully break them and mold them to what He wants because they saw little children

In Peru, students helped set up a clinic to meet physical and spiritual needs.



come to know Christ or heard orphans give testimonies to praise God."

The Ghana team, led by Dr. John Reese and his wife, Beth, helped missionaries in Techiman. There, they helped with door-to-door evangelism, Bible clubs, open-air meetings, and Christian education. The team was also privileged to visit the palace of a regional chief who received Christ as Savior thirteen years ago. During their time in Ghana, the team reached 3,300 people, with 268 accepting Christ.

For many PCC students, this summer was not about a short vacation to a tropical climate, but a long-term commitment to sharing the love of Christ with the lost. ■



Team to the Philippines



Missions *Focused*



Students gain a global vision for making a difference.

Because reaching the lost for Christ is the heart of biblical missions, PCC's missions majors receive comprehensive Bible instruction and practical training to prepare them for this person-to-person ministry.

At PCC, missions majors have the opportunity to minister locally through Christian service and abroad through Youth Outreach Ministry summer missions trips. Classes equip them with the knowledge they'll need to go on deputation, plant churches, manage finances, and work one-on-one with local people in their mission field. Students also have opportunities to attend Mission Prayer Band and hear active missionaries speak throughout the semester.

Through classes, Campus Church, chapel, and various avenues of ministry,

students can grow in God's Word while being challenged to serve others.



According to missionary **Nathan Jones** ('01, Canadian Arctic), "PCC helped prepare me for what a missionary may face on the field. I learned good study

habits and gained the tools I needed to aid me in deputation, sermon prepara-

Missions majors at PCC experience missions through one-on-one ministry to others.

tion, youth work, and other areas of my life and ministry. I believe one of the most valuable things I learned was

to strive to do everything properly and professionally and to be sensitive to the needs of others around me."

When a missions major graduates from PCC, he is not just ready to be a missionary; he has already experienced missions for himself. ■

Discover PCC's Missions Program

Under PCC's Bible major, the missions concentration equips and prepares students for ministering on the foreign field. Visit our website to see the program's course sequence and to read alumni testimonies.

Learn more at PCCinfo.com/Missions.

Winning Romania for Christ

Alumni Brent and Sara George show Christ's love to orphans and gypsies.

"When Sara and I felt the Lord calling us to missions, we began looking for the country He would have us serve in. Because my father is Romanian, I have always had an interest in Romania, and when a door opened for us to spend a summer there, I began praying and studying God's Word to try to get a better understanding of how to discern God's will for my life. He led me to Romans 12:1-2 where He taught me that if we are open to anything that He has for us and try to have an active relationship with Him, then He will put desires in our hearts. I then realized that the burden God had put on my heart for the people of Romania was His way of calling me there.

While in college at PCC, God prepared me for Romania through the church services, chapel messages, classes, and the example of my professors and other staff members. I grew closer to God in college faster than at any other time in my life. There was also a great emphasis on being a servant in ministry instead of striving to be simply a great leader.

Being a servant-leader has helped me in Romania, where our ministry has recently shifted to ministering almost exclusively to the poorest of the gypsy people. We are planting churches in two villages currently and also run kids' clubs, Bible studies, church services, and evangelistic outreaches. In addition, we spend the summers traveling into villages to run day camps. We spend the days playing with the children,



Brent and Sara George and children

singing with them, and teaching them the gospel. The evenings are then spent running evangelistic services to reach the adults with the gospel. God has been using this ministry greatly to draw a large number of gypsies to Himself.

The Lord has been opening doors faster than we can keep up, mostly

"We are just normal people, but the Lord has chosen to use us. We can all be used of God if we are just willing."

through the desire of people that we have led to the Lord. For instance, someone that we knew from a village was talking to someone

from another village about the Lord. He asked us to go into that village with the gospel. After people from the second village got saved, they told people from another village, and the third village asked us to give them the gospel. As this keeps happening, doors are opened in more and more villages. This has nothing to do with us. We are just normal people, but the Lord has chosen to use us, and through our weakness, He gets the glory for what He accomplishes through us. We can all be used of God if we are just willing." ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Attorney Esther Slater McDonald ('00 grad) delivers the Commencement address.

Commencement

Over 700 students shook hands with Dr. Shoemaker as they received their degrees from Pensacola Christian College, PCC Graduate Studies, and Pensacola Theological Seminary. May 7 marked PCC's 39th Commencement in its 40-year history. Part of the celebration included awarding a framed certificate to the 15,000th graduate, Ryan Bissette (MO).

Three honorary doctorates were also awarded this year, including the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Commencement speaker PCC alumna attorney Esther Slater McDonald. She gave two keys to success in her address: use the imagination and try new things. She encouraged graduates to dream

2014

and assured them that although they would meet with difficulty, they could succeed. "When you create your own path, you're going to have some struggles," she said. "It's easy to follow someone else's path. It's difficult to make your own path. Those struggles, though, will make you stronger and more successful."

Tossing their caps in celebration, graduates looked forward to the next stage of life as they joined thousands of other PCC alumni who faithfully serve the Lord in the workforce and Christian ministry. ■

President's Citation of Merit



- 1 Samuel Messick (Canada) and Savannah Eller (AL) were awarded PCC's highest honor.
- 2 Noah Conrad (MD), Anthony Odom (NC), Zachary Brooks (AL), Madeline Reimer (MN), Bonnie Gillis (FL), Christen Houghton (NJ), Suzanne Olson (IL), Hannah Carter (OH), Samuel Messick, Katrina Culmer (Canada), and Savannah Eller earned highest GPAs.

Faculty Academic Scholarship Awards





New Digital Innovations for Anniversary Yearbook

Following the 2014 *Summit* yearbook's unveiling in chapel this spring, students hurried to claim their copy, eager to turn back the rich blue cover and discover memories within its pages.

The memories went deeper in this year's 40th anniversary edition with new digitally embedded photos throughout the book. To see the hidden photos, students could download the Junaio augmented reality app and scan a QR code at the front of the book. Then, by hovering their iOS or Android devices over tagged photos within the layout, they could see the embedded pictures from *Summits* throughout PCC's history on their screen.

The student body loved the new design, with many seniors calling it the best they've ever seen. "We are pleased that the student body likes the digital portion," said *Summit* director Autumn Pearson. "We were happy to find a way to incorporate even more pictures."

The new features connected students with each other, their school, and alumni from years past.

To join in the memories, view a portion of the 2013–2014 *Summit* at PCCinfo.com/Yearbook. ■

Upcoming Events

College Days

for high school seniors, juniors, sophomores,
and qualified high school graduates

Nov. 26–28, 2014 • March 26–27, 2015

April 9–10, 2015

1-800-PCC-INFO (1-800-722-4636)

PCCinfo.com/CollegeDays

Bring a group of young people to experience
PCC college life and participate in exciting
activities and classes.

PCC Educator Recruitment

for churches and Christian schools seeking
candidates from among PCC students

February 23–24, 2015

1-800-PCC-INFO (1-800-722-4636)

Enrichment Retreat

a refreshing getaway for pastors
and ministry leaders

March 3–5, 2015

1-800-PCC-INFO (1-800-722-4636)

Bible Conference

Uplifting Bible preaching

Speakers Dr. Shane Lewis,
Dr. Marc Monte, Dr. Johnny Pope

March 11–13, 2015

1-800-PCC-INFO (1-800-722-4636)

PCC Commencement

for family and friends
of graduating students

May 6, 2015

1-800-PCC-INFO (1-800-722-4636)

Seminary/Graduate Summer Sessions

Challenging studies to strengthen your
ministry or career foundation

June 22–Aug. 7, 2015

1-877-PTS-GRAD (1-877-787-4723)

PCCinfo.com/GraduateStudies

A Second Chance for Service

Bob Mach (Sr., Africa) did not plan to rejoin his missionary family on the Ivory Coast or take part in the Bible college his dad was starting, but the Lord had other plans for this resentful missionary kid. Read what Bob has to say about his second chance and God's leading him to be a secondary education major at PCC.



Being a missionary kid has its challenges. Although I was born in Ohio, I grew up in the Ivory Coast. Most of my teenage years, I was bitter because I had no American friends, and the kids in the U.S. seemed cliquish. Often it was hard because I did not get certain humorous references or had not had certain experiences that the vast majority of kids in the States have had. This caused me to run from God.

But God got my attention when I was diagnosed with a rare condition called thoracic outlet syndrome that caused a blood clot in my jugular. The Lord miraculously preserved my life after an emergency flight back to the U.S. and three procedures. The doctors still don't understand my clean bill of health, but I do. The Lord gave me a second chance. On August 29, 2011, I surrendered to the Lord. Two months later I surrendered to return to the Ivory Coast, something I had fought my whole life.

When it came time to choose a college, I felt peace only with PCC. The academics are second to none in the Christian realm, and the atmosphere is great! The teachers have incredible hearts for the students and want them to succeed. My major is secondary education with emphases in music and technology. I chose these fields because they are areas of weakness in the Ivory Coast's national churches. Elements from these areas will

be taught in the Bible college my dad is starting, enabling the nationals to have successful church plants.

Since 2000, the Lord has opened many doors for our ministry. Upon arriving in Bingerville, the chiefs of the surrounding villages told my dad that we were not welcome in their villages, but, since we provided superior healthcare, we have been able to reach them. After taking care of their physical needs, we reached out to meet their spiritual needs. Within three years of the clinic's opening, we held Bible studies in four of the villages and are currently waiting for funds to build a hospital on our land.

Another open door has been the literacy center, which the Ivorian government declared the best in its region. Although 75% of the Ivorian population is proficient in reading, the Muslim immigrants are mostly illiterate. The center has led to many converted Muslims.

The Lord is growing our ministry so much, and, in the end, the Lord has been incredibly gracious to me. He has provided for my every need, physically and spiritually. The amazing preaching in Campus Church and the challenging chapel messages at PCC have helped my Christian walk significantly. Even though I fought it my whole life, I am so thrilled with the thought of returning to the Ivory Coast after I graduate to work in the Bible college." ■

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