

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

UPDATE

Summer 2015 | PCCinfo.com/Update

A photograph of graduates in black gowns and stoles celebrating at a commencement ceremony. They are throwing their black mortarboards into the air. The background is a large glass building with the words "CRO NE ENT" visible. The scene is bright and festive.

Finished!

Read about our 40th Commencement on pg. 10 ►

From the **President**

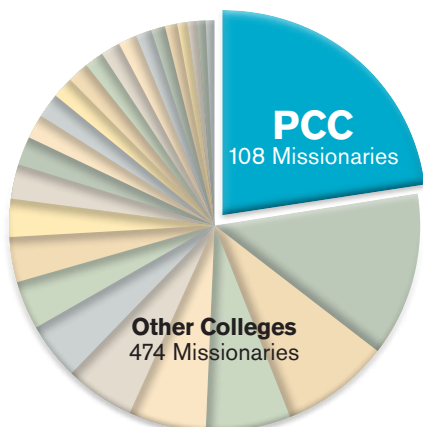
Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



One of the things I appreciate most about our students is the passion they have to serve God. It's evident as they get involved in Campus Church, as they run to raise money for missions, and as they pour their lives into reaching the community for Christ.

When I stop and think about how many young people are here to prepare for their future, about how they will go out and serve the Lord, I am overwhelmed by the potential they have. They could turn the world upside down as the disciples did in the book of Acts—and they are doing just that.

Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI) wrote recently to share the results of a study they conducted. They found that, over the last 15 years, 19% of the missionaries joining BIMI have been PCC alumni. We were thrilled to learn that PCC is sending more missionaries to the field through BIMI than any other Christian college!



Missionaries who joined BIMI
from Jan. 2000–Dec. 2014
www.bimi.org

This makes me more aware that what we do as a Christian college is so important. We are committed to coming alongside each student to help him prepare to serve God in the field He has for him. In fact, it's so important to us that it's a central part of our purpose as an institution.

Because PCC is a Christian liberal arts college, we have the tremendous privilege of training not only missionaries, pastors, and Christian educators, but also nurses, engineers, and designers. We see each field as a noble calling that God can use to further His kingdom.

As A.W. Tozer wrote, there should be no distinction between what some call the "sacred" and the "secular." For the Christian, there is no difference. The same God who calls some to the pastorate or the mission field calls others to the office or the surgical center.

From PCC's first Commencement 40 years ago until today, students have been coming here, preparing, and then following God to serve Him with their lives. During that time, it has been our goal each year to help students fulfill their time of training and then go serve God with the same passion they had as they were preparing.

Countless alumni are passionately serving God, and He is using them in amazing ways. I'd like to invite you to visit the PCC website and watch a new video that shows how God is using alumni in their ministries and businesses for His glory.



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PCCinfo.com/GetConnected

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Volunteers like Troy Lobdell (CA) passed out over 900 Chick-fil-A sandwiches at the event.

Campus Church Pensacola Day

PCC students work side by side with Campus Church members during an outreach for the community.

We are here, and we care—that's what Campus Church members and PCC students said through Pensacola Day, an event held in March to reach out to the community by providing free food, games, and entertainment.

The community was truly surprised by this special Saturday of events planned just for them. One woman named Therese said, "I love to see so much positivity in the community in Pensacola. And I thought it was just awesome! Everything went well. The games and activities that you guys put up for us, I enjoyed. I loved it—beautiful day! It was just lovely."

Campus Church pastor Denis McBride said the most common remark he heard during the day was, "I knew you had a college, but I didn't know you had a church." This outreach was a fantastic way for PCC and Campus Church to share their heart with the community, ministering together to around 4,000 guests.

PCC student **Clayton Foy Udd** (Sr., KS) served as a photographer, capturing special moments from Pensacola Day. For him, the crowds were the most interesting part of the experience. "Although the lines were long, I don't remember telling anyone to smile for the camera because they were already beaming. I have worked for outreach events at other churches but have never seen anything quite like Pensacola Day. It was a magnificent experience to see the many lives we impacted, and I believe we planted a seed in the hearts of all those who attended."

PCC students served alongside Campus Church members, passing out 2,200 grilled hot dogs, 1,000 Papa John's pizza slices, 900 Chick-fil-A sandwiches, and enough cotton candy and popcorn to feed a small army. For PCC student volunteer **Madison Willis** (Jr., OH), working in the food tent gave her a chance to meet people. She said, "I enjoyed having the opportunity to interact with the



Pensacola community. The people had the biggest influence on me that day. It was a blessing to be involved in such a big outreach.”

Another student who attended Pensacola Day with his friends from the area, **Ben Miller** (*Fr., PA*), said, “We were all blown away by the number of people that attended. Reaching out to that many people was truly overwhelming.”

The best part about the outreach wasn’t all the free food and activities—although guests certainly enjoyed posing with the Pensacola Blue Wahoos baseball team mascot, exploring a fire truck, and watching their children enjoy pony rides. The best part about this outreach was that everything was done in a spirit of genuine love.

Volunteers showed love in many ways as they helped with games like a milk bottle toss, dunk tank, cake walk, and 3-on-3 basketball tournament, or as they painted children’s faces and took family portraits for guests to remember the day.

Throughout the event, people were

entertained by a variety of musical events both vocal and instrumental: a barber shop quartet, PCC’s Spirit Singers, and a live band performed favorite songs like “Oh, Susannah!” and “Yankee Doodle Dandy.”

Christian illusionist David Corn (*’07 grad*) and his wife, Joy, put on four shows throughout the day. He pulled guests from the audience to participate as he sawed his wife in half, made people and objects disappear, and performed a variety of up-close tricks with rings and ropes.

After the event, Pastor McBride said, “We were completely overwhelmed at Pensacola Day. I felt like Elijah when the fire fell. I prayed

for it, but I was still surprised. It’s far beyond anything I expected.” Through the event, Campus Church connected with new contacts and was able to invite these guests back for Easter Sunday the next weekend.

Through Pensacola Day, PCC students and Campus Church members showed Christ’s love in an effort to reach the community. ■

“I believe we planted a seed in the hearts of all those who attended.”



PCC's intercollegiate sports logo gets updated look, encouraging team spirit and school unity.

In 1977, after several tryouts, 11 students made the final cut to be part of PCC's first intercollegiate basketball team. While the coaching staff spent time choosing names for the final roster, they didn't have to worry about finding a name for the team mascot. PCC had already selected the bald eagle as the college emblem during the school's founding stages because of what the eagle symbolizes: strength and truth. Making the eagle the sports mascot as well was an easy choice.

The student body rallied around the new team that first year even though the *Eagles* played in a high school gym. "The noise level was unbelievable because the gym was so small and the entire student body was there yelling and screaming," said PCC faculty **Fred Carlson**, who was one of the original 11 *Eagles* team members. "It united the student body like nothing we had experienced."

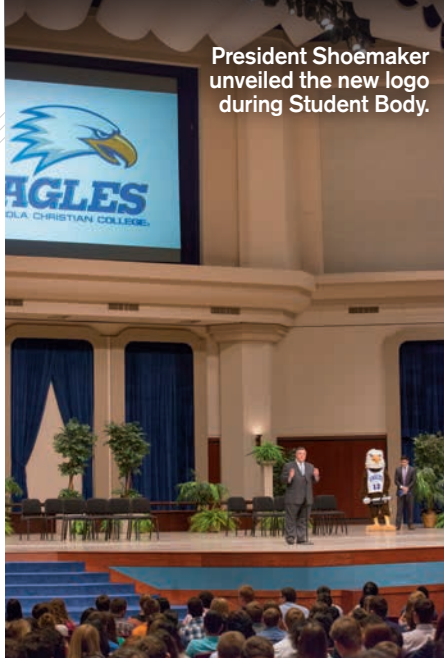
After that inaugural season, as the College grew, the *Eagles* family expand-

ed to include more than just the men's basketball team. The *Lady Eagles* volleyball team began competing in 1994, the same year that the new Sports Center Arena replaced the Field House as the home of the *Eagles* intercollegiate teams. Coach Landra Grant, who led the *Lady Eagles* that first season, is still the coach after 21 years. In 2008, the *Lady Eagles* basketball team played its first season together; in its short history, it has already reached Nationals twice.

The *Eagles* have seen many changes over the years, from updated jerseys to state-of-the-art courts, from different players and coaches to added teams.

Now the eagle itself has undergone a change with the redesign of the logo. The new logo is boosting team spirit with a modern, clean design that depicts energy and movement.

Unlike the eagle that the teams have traditionally seen, the new design focuses on the eagle's head rather than its whole body to create a modern yet classic look. And while blue and white



President Shoemaker unveiled the new logo during Student Body.

EAGLES UPDATES

The redesign includes dynamic banners in the Sports Center's main lobby and arena as well as a complete make-over of the basketball court floor.

"It has a very clean, simple design, utilizing more staining inside the court versus paint," said maintenance director **Peter Harrington**.

Work on the Sports Center began at the end of the school year and was finished in time for Youth Outreach Ministry basketball camps this summer.

"It's been exciting to see the new logo come together, and it will be even more exciting to see it in use in the months and years ahead," Ebert said.

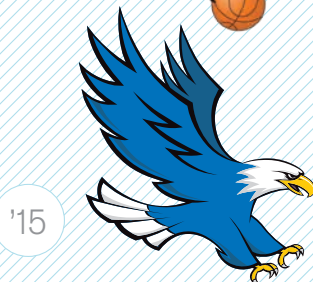
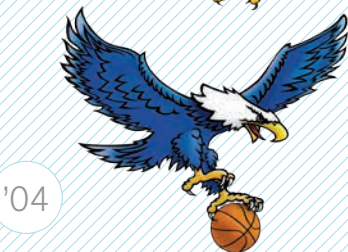
Although the *Eagles* will be playing this fall in a gym that showcases the updated logo, the drive of the *Eagles* remains the same: pursuing strength and truth. As students look to the future, the new eagle logo will continue to encourage school spirit and to commemorate the values PCC has long sought to instill in its student body. ■

school colors are still prominent, the updated eagle has also introduced secondary colors of gray and gold.

"We wanted to create a brand identity that captures what the eagle stands for and what PCC has as its core beliefs," said **Aaron Ebert**, digital media supervisor in the Advertising Services department. The new eagle logo continues to communicate strength and truth; it also depicts beauty, focus, and vision.

The Changing Eagle

To stay current, the *Eagles* logo has been revised each decade during the teams' history. See the story behind the new look by watching the reveal video shown to the student body. PCCinfo.com/NewEagle





WRITING

His Way to the End Zone

One student's dream to be a sports journalist becomes reality as God opens opportunities.

What inspires a person to do great things? For PCC student **Jon Heath (Jr., PA)**, big dreams are just a part of the plan.

Since he was a little boy, he has always enjoyed playing and watching football. "I am a big sports guy," said Jon, "and though God did not gift me physically like some athletes, He did give me a passion for covering sports."

His hunger for all things football-related led to his finding a blog on his favorite team, the Broncos, when he was 14 years old.

As he read about the team and watched shows on the NFL Network, he came to one very important conclusion: "I thought I knew more than the analysts about the team, and I disagreed with much of what the 'experts' had to say. So I decided to make a blog of my own where I could write down what I thought about the Broncos, offering a counter opinion to the talking heads on TV."

At the time, Jon was just doing what

he enjoyed, but the Lord had a plan for this opinionated teenager with a passion for sports. Over the next few years, God would open doors and give Jon opportunities he never expected. Before he graduated from high school, Jon was already well on his way to becoming a sports journalist.

When he was 15, his blog posts were noticed by another Bronco blog, and he was offered a position as a writer. A year after that, the first blog he had ever read picked him up. "I was thrilled to join the site that had originally sparked my interest in sports writing," he said. While he was writing for the blog, a sports site owned by Turner Broadcasting, Bleacher Report, asked if he would become a Denver Broncos Featured Columnist for their site. During his time with Bleacher Report, Jon was the most-read Broncos writer. But that job would not last long; *Mile High Report*, the largest and most notable Broncos blog on the web, asked him to come write for them.

At 16, he received a personal letter from John Elway, the Broncos' legendary quarterback and general manager, recognizing Jon's coverage of the team and encouraging him to continue pursuing his dream of becoming a sports journalist. Two years later, Forbes.com published his TiqIQ slideshow on NFL ticket prices.

When it came time for college, Jon and his parents decided on PCC. "My parents and I both liked that it was a conservative, Christ-centered school, and we knew it was a solid academic school," he said. "And the price was right."

Although Jon is still earning his professional writing degree from PCC, he has already received job offers and been offered a sports clerk position at a local newspaper.

He attributes his success as a sports journalist so far to his perseverance as a writer. Jon tries to write two or three times a week during the semester and posts one blog article daily during the summers. He also spends time attending football games, football training camps, and press conferences. Jon

believes, "Experience is key—the more I write, the better my writing becomes. I have had many opportunities to write over the years, including for PCC's *Campus Post* blog. My experience writing for a wide range of outlets has helped me improve my writing and my style while teaching me to be flexible and teachable under various editors and bosses."

Jon's favorite class at PCC has been Introduction to Journalism. "I learned so much from that class, and I am looking forward to taking the follow-up class, Journalism," said Jon. "It helped me improve as a writer

and taught me the ins and outs of how to write news stories; from hard news to soft news and summary leads to various kickers, I now know how to construct the perfect news story." With only one more year of college left to go, Jon's dream of becoming a sports journalist is coming closer.

"A good work ethic and versatility go a long way, and I have been very blessed," he admitted. "God has opened up many opportunities for me." And as long as the opening is there, Jon is running through to the end zone. ■

"God has opened up many opportunities for me. I have been very blessed."

Behind the Scenes with a Sports Writer



- ① Covering a training camp press conference with quarterback Peyton Manning
- ② Getting video footage from the sidelines to use for social media
- ③ Posing on set with Fox News host Sean Hannity in New York City



Teaching Hearts

Q: What's it like being a teacher?

A: You end the day with your fingers dusted in chalk, white smudges on your blazer. As you tidy the empty classroom for tomorrow, you relish the scent of sharpened pencils and worn notebooks. It's been a long and rewarding day, and you yawn so hard your eyes water; but that doesn't stop you from moving on to grading your students' English papers. They'll tell you the most interesting things in those one-page creative essays, and you've long before learned to look forward to reading them, not as a chore, but as another way to know your students better. You're a teacher, and teaching is only half—though an immensely important part—of your job.

Teachers write lectures, grade papers, attend school functions, sponsor clubs, meet with parents, and much more in addition to instructing students. That's because education is more than teaching subjects and skills; it's about reaching young lives for the next generation.

Choosing to study education in college isn't like preparing for just a career;

it's preparing for a calling to serve.

"We approach teaching as a ministry to reach students for Christ and not just as a job," said

Marie Thompson, who teaches English education on both the undergraduate and graduate levels and serves as chair of PCC's humanities department.



“Teaching is a high calling and requires excellence. We teach our students how to teach.”

Each semester, education majors devote their time to mastering courses in their field.



“What our future teachers get is challenging academics and traditional, practical methodology based solidly on sound teaching principles and good common sense, not the latest fads or humanistic theories,” said **Dr. Phyllis Rand**, chair of the education department. “They are taught by instructors who love to teach and have convictions about the importance and privilege of teaching.”

Students learn from master teachers who first demonstrate how to teach and then coach the student in peer teachings.

“I demonstrate how to teach by teaching a lesson myself so that students can make connections with why we teach and how we teach,” Thompson said. “Students practice teaching in a lab setting in which, as soon as they finish teaching for me, I explain what they did correctly and what they could improve upon.”

In their senior year, education majors have an internship at Pensacola Christian Academy, providing real classroom experience under the mentorship of skilled Academy teachers.

“Student teaching was like having my own class. I had to plan everything, grade everything, and be the teacher,” said **Dinah Satterfield** (*'99 grad*). A veteran teacher of 15 years, she uses her degree to teach courses in keyboarding, health, and English at Calvary Christian School (NC). She believes her internship during her senior year made her first year teaching a smooth transition from college to

her own classroom. “I had a great first year teaching because I was confident and comfortable in my training. After 15 years, I still absolutely love what I do!”

Even more important than knowing how to teach a subject is learning how to reach the hearts of students—and that’s the heart of PCC’s education program.

“The Bible classes are still a major help to me even in daily academics,” said **Rebecca Houghton** (*'07 grad*), who’s taught music in both elementary and secondary education for over eight years. “PCC’s biblical emphases in teaching worldview, in work ethic, and really in every aspect has shaped the way I teach, the way I deal with others, and the way I think.”

Education majors learn not only to enjoy teaching subjects, but also to enjoy reaching out to students. “Enjoy the students,” Satterfield encouraged. “Don’t be afraid to laugh with them. Be real, and show them you love them every day.”

“Education is one of PCC’s largest majors,” said Dr. Rand, “and our education graduates are in high demand. PCC has a reputation worldwide for producing excellent,

committed teachers with a heart for service.”

To high school graduates interested in teaching, Dr. Rand encouraged: “Come be part of an education department distinctively different—in philosophy and practicality. Become part of the major that is known around the world as the training ground for quality Christian education.” ■

Learning how to reach the hearts of students—that’s the heart of PCC’s education program.

Discover PCC’s Education Program

Visit our website to see the program’s course sequence and to read alumni testimonies.

Learn more at PCCinfo.com/Education.



Commencement

May 6 marked PCC's 40th Commencement with 771 students graduating from Pensacola Christian College, PCC Graduate Studies, and Pensacola Theological Seminary. Students representing 5 continents, 24 countries, and 48 states crossed the platform to shake hands with Dr. Shoemaker and receive their diplomas.

Commencement speaker Reverend Timothy Zacharias ('89), smiled as he told the graduates, "You are right there at the finish line." He admonished students that as they pursue employment, post-graduate degrees, and marriage, "Wisdom is the principal thing." Zacharias was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree along with Florida

2015

state representative Mike Hill who was given an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

After the ceremony, graduates tossed their caps, smiled for pictures, and waved diplomas in the air as their family and friends celebrated with them.

By God's grace and with the support of family, faculty, and other students, the graduates reached this exciting milestone. Now they are going out into the world, prepared to make a difference.

And as Commencement turns into a memory, graduates anticipate all that God has for them in the future. ■

President's Citation of Merit



1 Jeffrey Cannon (WV) and Kayla Bowen (FL) were awarded PCC's highest honor.

Faculty Academic Scholarship Awards



2 Hannah Goemaat (IA), Lura Palmer (SC), Steven Lowery (MI), and Cara Goematt (IA), earned highest GPAs.

Updates to Scholarship Program

With financial needs ranging from family to family, the *A Beka* Foundation scholarship program has been updated to better help students graduate from college without a heavy debt burden.

One of the most appealing updates allows qualified students to combine the One-Year-Free program with most scholarships. Depending on the scholarship received, a student could be awarded over \$11,000 in financial aid over four years.

Those who have served in the U.S. Armed Services or have parents serving in the U.S. Armed Services may qualify for the new Armed Services Scholarship.

Also, scholarships are now available to new and returning students throughout the year: if a student applies to PCC after the scholarship deadline, he no longer misses the opportunity to earn the scholarship but can simply apply the next semester.

The *A Beka* Foundation offers the following scholarships:

- **Armed Services Scholarship**
(\$2,500–\$4,000)
- **Christian Service Scholarship**
(\$2,500–\$4,000)
- **Ministerial Scholarship**
(\$2,500–\$4,000)
- **Academic Honors Scholarship**
(\$2,000–\$3,200)
- **Teacher Education Scholarship**
(\$1,000–\$1,500)
- **Alumni Scholarship**
(\$700–\$1,000)
- ***A Beka* Academy Tuition Scholarship**
(Amount varies)

To learn more about financial aid, visit PCCinfo.com/Scholarships. ■

Upcoming Events

Summer Seminar for Christian school administrators and teachers July 28–31

(850) 478-8496, ext. 2828
PCCinfo.com/SummerSeminar

PCC Opening Weekend for family and friends of students September 5–7

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

Teachers Clinic for Christian school teachers and office staff October 12–13

(850) 478-8496, ext. 2828
PCCinfo.com/TeachersClinic

Ladies Celebration Spiritual retreat with God's Word at Camp o' the Pines November 5–7

(850) 478-8496, ext. 2828
PCCinfo.com/LadiesCelebration

College Days for high school seniors, juniors, sophomores, and qualified high school graduates Nov. 25–28

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.

Campus Post

Student Perspectives on PCC

“Remember My People”

James Miyashita (*Sr., Japan*) came to PCC to major in Computer Science and Software Engineering, intending to become a video game designer. But God had other plans for this ambitious young man. Read what James has to say about his time at PCC, where he gained a heart for missions and for the people of his homeland.



“Salvation is not in a prayer that you pray for reliance in that prayer but belief in the living Jesus who has promised to save us if we trust in Him. My life really began to change when I had to think about what I believed versus what I had been taught to believe all of my life.

My freshman year at PCC, missionary to Papua New Guinea John Allen spoke in chapel. What got to me was a phrase he quoted from a man who was from one of the villages in Papua New Guinea that didn’t have any missionaries to preach the gospel. This man would come to get medical supplies and each time before he would leave, he would say to John, ‘Remember my people.’ Those words broke me.

In Japan, we had just experienced a tremendous earthquake the spring before I came to PCC; over 15,000 people lost their lives in one day. There’s something about being in the country, feeling the earth shake beneath your feet, and seeing the ghastly images and reports come in. Nobody ever dreamed of a tsunami wave (higher than Bradley Tower at PCC) hitting. Japan is always prepared for earthquakes and tsunamis, but this one was different. You don’t have to be a mathematician to imagine how many people slipped into eternal suffering that day.

I’ve always thought pretty logically. That’s probably why I have enjoyed programming. I knew the logical and realistic

implications when someone dies without Christ. When John Allen said the words, ‘Remember my people,’ I remembered my own people. When I thought about my people—the people of Japan—I had to do something.

After that chapel message, I realized that I needed to return to Japan. Japan is lost and needs the gospel. I have come to realize that in Jesus’ day, Jesus said to Peter, ‘Follow me,’ and Peter left everything to follow Jesus. The disciples left everything, received their training, and were successful in reaching the world with the gospel. It takes committed people who are willing to leave behind their own ambitions and proclaim Jesus to spread the gospel.

John 15:5 says, ‘I am the vine, ye are the branches...without me ye can do nothing.’ Without Jesus, we can’t sit, stand, or do anything! If we can’t do anything without Him, then that means nothing I do is apart from Him.

After graduating from PCC in May, I will be attending the Our Generation Training Center in Georgia where I will learn how to plant churches from missionaries with over 20 years of experience on the field. Since these men are experienced at church planting, and church planting is the biblical model for propagating the gospel, I will be learning their methods to be an effective missionary in Japan.” ■

Employment Opportunities

Have you considered what you can do for the Lord's work on a growing college campus?

Openings in the following areas—

PCC Faculty

- Management/Marketing • Computer Science
- Mathematics • Nursing • Speech • Visual Arts

PCC Staff

- IT System Administrator • Web Programmer
- Carpenter • Copywriter
- Digital Media Designer • Office Assistant

Send résumé with short testimonial to Employee Services,
P.O. Box 17023, Pensacola, FL 32522-7023, U.S.A.

EmployeeServices@pcci.edu

**Visit pcci.edu/service
for more information.**



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