

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

UPDATE

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Christmas!

Campus transformation on pg. 2 ►

From the **President**

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



With 2016 so close on the horizon, it's appropriate to pause and think about the conclusion of 2015. Perhaps, like me, you spend some time reflecting on the year and how you can finish it well. It's amazing how just a few moments in prayerful thought can change our perspective for the better!

With that in mind, a month before the semester ended, I challenged the student body to approach their final days of classes with the attitude that they could finish strong with God's help. The thoughts that Paul shared with Timothy resonated with them: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Tim. 4:7-8).

My thoughts to the students from these verses was that they put their faith in God to finish the course they've started. Things may get difficult, but in the end, they'll have the joy of seeing God do more than they ever dreamed possible.

After presenting this challenge, I also encouraged the students with ways our leadership team is committed to helping them finish their course of study toward a college degree.

At PCC, we've been laying the groundwork for expanding the Student Care Office, equipping our staff in new ways and taking more initiative in getting students the help they need. We're improving how faculty academic advisors and staff in the Student Care Office coordinate information as they reach out to students. And we're changing how Career Services partners with students as they look for professional opportunities beyond college.

As I shared with our students, national statistics show that more people than ever are going to college. But they also show that more people than ever are leaving college without graduating.

At PCC, we are striving to avoid becoming a statistic by improving our ministry to students as they prepare to serve God. The goal isn't to see students finish college simply to earn a degree, though. It's to equip them as fully as possible to finish the course God has laid out for them. ■

**Our goal is to equip
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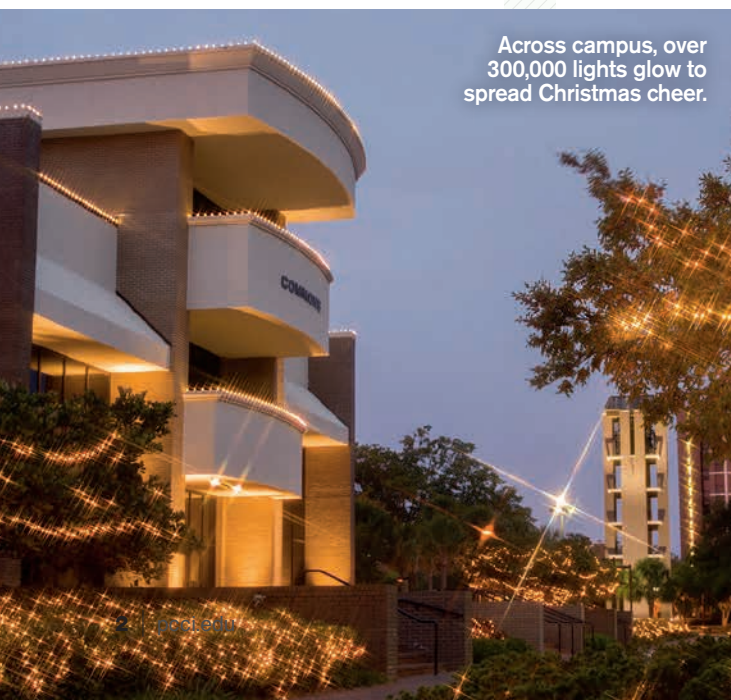
Christmas!

How does Christmas spirit spread across campus? It starts on an afternoon in early December. With blankets tucked under their arms, students dash across the Varsity Terrace to claim their viewing spot for one of the year's most anticipated events. As dusk settles, excitement rises for the start of the annual Christmas Lights Concert. In an instant, the campus transforms with the synchronized illumination of twinkle lights and gigantic ornaments that adorn campus trees. But holiday cheer extends beyond Christmas Lights. In the Commons, a 15-foot-wide, two-story Christmas tree shines. In the Common Grounds Café, hints of peppermint and gingerbread fill the air. And throughout campus, Christmas music plays to celebrate the season of our Savior's birth.



Across campus, over 300,000 lights glow to spread Christmas cheer.

Inside the Commons, students relax (and cram for finals) by the warm glow of Christmas lights.



CHRISTMAS



At the Christmas Lights Concert, the Spirit Singers and other choral groups sing holiday favorites.



Music fills the night air and brings the campus together at Christmas Lights.



I love Christmas Lights! It officially kicks off the holiday season for me. My roommates and I usually decorate our door with Christmas wrap and a big bow. Christmas music playing on our phones and laptops makes it seem that much more like home.

—Shayna Lightfoot
Sr., AL



From Page to Stage

*Pulling back the curtain on **The Scarlet Pimpernel***

Opening night—the moment everyone has waited for—when the lights fade and the curtain rises. The finished, polished Fine Arts production begins, but hard work by the cast and crew has gone on behind the scenes for months.

Most viewers don't realize that the cast has rehearsed and the crew has prepared for at least one hour for every minute that takes place on stage. *The Scarlet Pimpernel* cast and crew put in over 400 hours for a 2-hour play. But it all began not on the worn stage but at a wooden desk with a steaming cup of tea and a writer deep in thought.

For PCC faculty and playwright **Dan Webb**, his efforts began four years ago when he was still working on his M.F.A. in dramatics. Back then, the idea for *The Scarlet Pimpernel* took shape as a 60-minute short play, but Webb saved favorite ideas for this full-length endeavor.

When PCC asked him to adapt the best subplots and characters from all seven of Baroness Orczy's *Pimpernel* novels for a Fine Arts production, Webb jumped at the opportunity.

Performing arts faculty **Dr. Charlene**

Monk, a veteran director of Fine Arts productions, said, "Taking an epic-sized story covering several books and condensing it into a fluid dramatic production which is true to the texts is difficult."

"I have always enjoyed intrigue stories," said Webb. "*The Scarlet Pimpernel* is the first written to combine humor, daring adventure, mystery, and sheer recklessness into one. That was what drew me in, and I haven't quite recovered!"

With a lot of prayer and a little ingenuity, Webb and his team set out to perform the impossible in merely nine months. By mid-summer, he finished writing the rough draft, and the scene and costume designers began creating renderings. **Marlene Jekel** helped create the costumes, inspired by the styles of the 1790s while allowing actors to move freely enough to wield weapons.



- 1** In the scene shop, staff and students drafted and constructed stage sets.
- 2** The costume department designed and crafted over 30 costumes in keeping with styles from the 1790s.
- 3** Director Dan Webb and lead actor Josh Hutt spent many hours practicing the choreography for *Pimpernel's* duels.

"I love to see the whole process from researching the time period to designing the costume, choosing the fabric, and seeing the finished garment come alive on stage," she said. Since just one costume can take 20–30 hours to create, Marlene and the costumers were very busy clothing a cast of 34.

Once designs for the set were finalized, construction began in August so that Webb and his actors would have plenty of time to practice the choreography for the duels. As a Certified Stage Combat Instructor and Choreographer, Webb has a thorough understanding of how to create believable duel sequences for stage.

An average two-minute duel requires three hours of planning and one hour of practice for every five seconds on stage. When **Josh Hutt** (Sr., MA) began practicing for the part of Sir Percival Blakeney (the Scarlet Pimpernel), he didn't realize he would be wielding swords several hours every week.

"It's hard to get the timing down and trust the other guy not to jab you," he said. "But it's really fun and rewarding.

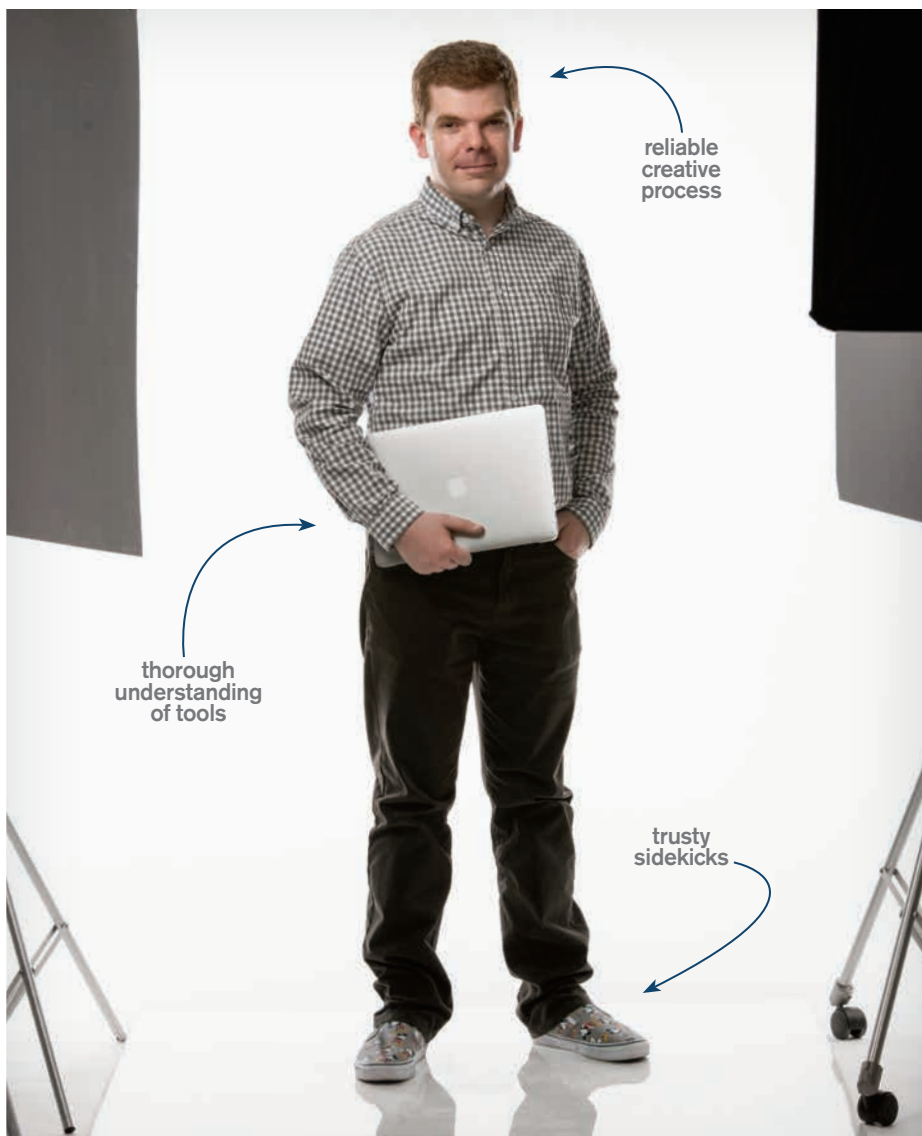
You have to go into a Fine Arts looking at the end result—to entertain the audience."

For graduate M.B.A. student **Amanda Cochran** (TX), playing an extra gave her the greatest flexibility. "It's a time to relax and get out of the classroom," she said. "I really like the rush of working with the director to make his dream come alive."

PCC staff member **Dakota Wilson**, playing Lord Dewhurst, agreed that the Fine Arts production was well worth the time put into it. "We knew we were all exhausted, practicing four hours a night," he said. "But we're all likeminded people who were in this together. The camaraderie, the talent—it was so fun!"

Overall, the reason the cast and crew enjoyed working so hard is summed up perfectly by **Jen Wells** (Sr., FL), an actress playing the French villainess Gabrielle Damiens: "I love acting. I love the hard work. My favorite memories are getting to know the other cast members and growing friendships with them. I love seeing a group of talented people give their talents back to God for His glory." ■

▼ On a recent visit to campus, Ryan shared his experiences with senior visual arts majors.



THE MAKING OF AN APPLE DESIGNER

Days after Ryan Standley ('08) walked across the stage to receive his college diploma, the stock market began a downward spiral. At the time, Ryan was vacationing at Disney World, celebrating with his family. "I remember reading the headlines that the stock market was crashing, and I really didn't know what that meant to me. But then I got home, and I figured out what that meant to me."

Ryan's original goal in life was to become a Walt Disney hand-drawn animator. "My senior year in high school, there was a shift in Disney animation and they shut down hand-drawn very suddenly," he said. "I had to rethink my plan for college so I took a year off to seriously reconsider the path I was heading down."

During that time, Ryan worked retail at a local grocery store. One evening as he restocked soda bottles, he found himself critiquing a logo. "It's like the Lord spoke to me and said, 'Look at what you're doing right now. This is second nature to you. You are a graphic designer—this is what you need to be doing.' I prayed a lot about it, and I felt God leading me to PCC to study graphic design."

Ryan arrived at PCC without any experience using the Apple operating system that he would come to know so well. "My time spent here was everything to my success as a designer now. I came away with a very specialized knowledge of how to use the computer for graphic design purposes," he said.

Four years later, Ryan graduated from college, sure of his calling. "I was expecting to go straight home, get a job in a graphic design firm, and live happily ever after. And that wasn't the case—that wasn't what God had for me."

Ryan spent the next six months handing out graphic design portfolios and meeting with prospective employers. Each time he heard the same answer—your work is fantastic, but we just aren't hiring right now. That's when Ryan decided on another avenue. He knew retail and he knew Apple computers, so he took his graphic design portfolio to the Apple store in his neighborhood.

During the interview, he explained how working with Apple computers had

transformed his work as a designer. The manager, while impressed with Ryan's work, was even more impressed with what Ryan had to say about Apple products. "I was pretty much hired right then and there," Ryan said.

As time passed, Ryan's employers noted his exceptional work ethic and passion for Apple.

In time, he became a Creative—an employee who trains customers and employees how to use

Apple software. On the side, Ryan continued to use his graphic design skills as a freelance designer.

One day, the Internal Systems and Technology department at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, CA, contacted Ryan's store in Seattle. They had come across his design portfolio and wondered if he would be willing to spend six months in California designing several top-secret projects for the company. Ryan knew that God was giving him the opportunity to combine his passion for Apple and his passion for design.

Ryan could not talk about his work, even with family and friends. But in the end, seeing something he had designed affect all four hundred plus Apple stores was a reward in itself. "To think that they would call me up out of the blue and say here's this giant project that has pretty big consequences, and we have faith that you can deliver—that's huge," Ryan said.

Most recently, Ryan transitioned to an in-store trainer for several of the company's stores, training the next generation of employees in "all things Apple." He now sees how God's plan was best and advises college students, "Graduate with an open mind—show God your diploma and just let Him work from there and be open and willing to go where that leads you."

"My time spent here was everything to my success as a designer now."

Pausing for Success with Distance Learning

Distance-learning courses give graduate students the ability to build their studies around their lives,” said **Dr. John Reese**, a distance-learning instructor for over 20 years.

Police officer **Ronald Bowen, Jr.** ('06) experienced this firsthand while taking Dr. Reese's History of American Education class. While on patrol, Bowen would sometimes listen to class lectures.

“Many times Dr. Reese was my partner bravely keeping me company as we traveled from call to call,” he said. “One day as Dr. Reese articulated his lesson, a robbery-in-progress call went out on my beat. I reached over and pressed the stop button. On went the lights and siren, engine racing as Dr. Reese and I sped in that direction.

“Later that shift, with the suspects chased and paperwork done, I returned to the cruiser. As I pressed the play button, Dr. Reese blinked to life again with his lecture.”

Stories like Bowen's reflect the flex-

ibility that so many appreciate about distance learning. But convenience isn't the only reason graduate students choose distance learning.

Bowen said, “I decided that if I were going to spend my own money, it would be for a quality education that conveyed truthful information untainted by a secular worldview. Distance learning turned out to be everything I could have hoped for.”

Dr. Phyllis Rand, another veteran distance-learning instructor, is confident that “most of the people who come to our graduate schools come seeking out time when they can gain a degree, and they have to do it around what the Lord's

called them to do.”

That's why it is so important that graduate and seminary students in education, ministry, or business can fit

degrees into their busy lives. Courses are designed to provide students with a traditional classroom experience in the comfort of their living room or the convenience of their office.

**“Distance learning
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Pensacola Theological Seminary offers two degrees completely online: Master of Arts degree in Bible Exposition and Master of Ministry. For PCC graduate studies, eight of the ten required courses for the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree and six of the ten required courses for the Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership are available online, allowing for minimal residency.

New technology enables distance-learning students to receive personal interaction with faculty. With courses delivered via Canvas, an online learning management system, students upload their work and receive feedback from teachers. This two-way communication is invaluable to the learning process. In concurrence with Canvas, a video delivery service called Panopto enables students to bookmark favorite PowerPoint slides and connect their class notes to key points in the video lectures.

The video instruction itself is recorded by a wall-mounted camera, with no need for a human operator. Instead, the camera is controlled by a lanyard worn by the faculty instructor. The camera automatically zooms in on visual aids and follows the teacher even when he moves around the room.

“The investment we’re making in the distance-learning program is part of our strategic plan to come alongside ministry leaders and professionals where they are to help them get their advanced degrees,” said **President Shoemaker**. PCC and PTS desire to support other ministries and business professionals as they equip their employees with the knowledge and skills they need.

With a variety of graduate and seminary classes being offered through distance learning, graduates are finding it much easier to gain the knowledge they need to excel while still having time for jobs, ministry, and family. ■

From Classroom to Home—How Distance Learning Works



▲ While teaching a course on campus, education faculty Dr. Chris Bowman wears a lanyard that enables a wall-mounted, motion-sensing recording device to track his movements.



▼ Once the course is recorded and edited, it is distributed online through the Canvas learning management system.





MEN'S EAGLES SOCCER

*Announcing a new intercollegiate sports team,
which takes the field beginning fall 2016.*

Since the early days of the College, soccer has been a favorite sport on campus. Now, students are excited to take the game to the next level with the *Eagles* intercollegiate soccer team this coming fall. While collegian soccer and the Turkey Bowl will remain best-loved College traditions, the intercollegiate team will provide students even more opportunities to enjoy the sport.

Tryouts for the new team will be held during the spring semester and are open to current college students and graduating high school seniors. "I am definitely planning to try out for the *Eagles* soccer team," said **Adrian Torres** (So., TX). "I have been playing soccer for as long as I can remember. As I got older, one of my goals was to pursue my soccer career at the collegiate level. I am very excited to be able to have a soccer team on campus because it adds another element to the wonderful college experience here at PCC."

Athletic director **Mark Goetsch** envisions an exciting future for *Eagles* soccer. "Building a competitive program takes about five years," he said. "It's a process of getting good college players introduced to our program, developing

a solid system of play, and increasing our level of competition over a period of time. I would love to see us competing for a region title in five years, giving us the opportunity to move on to the national tournament."

While a new team, *Eagles* soccer already has a history at the College. In the fall of 1980, the original 28-man *Eagles* soccer team—consisting of mostly freshmen and sophomores—played a successful first season but retired a few seasons later.

PCC faculty Dr. Fred Johnson played on the very first *Eagles* soccer team as a freshman. "Coming out and starting my first game is something I will never forget," he said. "The bleachers were filled to capacity. What excitement on campus! I am thrilled to see *Eagles* soccer return. It is something I have been waiting to see for over 30 years."

In 2016, the *Eagles* soccer team will play their first season as part of the National Christian College Athletic Association Division II South Region, competing with teams from Division I, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. ■

New Nuclear Tool



The Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) instrument, added to the natural sciences department this year, is essential to studying and practicing modern chemistry.

While many colleges begin teaching students to use NMR technology on the graduate level, the new instrument allows PCC students to start using it their sophomore year.

The NMR instrument is capable of running one-dimensional and two-dimensional tests, detecting both hydrogen-1 and carbon-13 through powerful magnets that align the natural magnetic properties of atoms. This technology enables students to determine the structure of a molecule without destroying it, much like an x-ray machine for atoms.

Dr. Shane Smith, chair of the natural sciences department, said, "Students can safely run their own samples in just a few minutes, and they can take the raw data and decide for themselves how they want to display the results."

The current technology of the NMR instrument will help keep students ahead of the ever-changing scientific curve. ■

Upcoming Events

PCC Spring Semester Opening Weekend

for family and friends of students

January 23-25, 2016

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

College Days

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

Mar. 31-Apr. 2, 2016 • Apr. 14-16, 2016

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

pcc.edu/CollegeDays

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

Missions Conference

sharing a global perspective

February 14-17, 2016

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

Educator Recruitment

for churches and Christian schools seeking candidates from among PCC students

February 22-23, 2016

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

Career Fair

for organizations and businesses seeking candidates from among PCC students

February 25, 2016

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

Enrichment Retreat

a refreshing getaway for pastors and ministry leaders

March 1-3, 2016

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

EnrichmentRetreat.com

Refocusing Her Future

Kaitlin Hurst (*So., Philippines*) did not share her parents' enthusiasm for missions. She wanted to stay in the U.S. and finish high school with her friends. But Kaitlin's silent rebellion turned to willing service after a year in the Philippines. Read how the Lord turned her thoughts toward missions and led her to be an English education major at PCC.



The Lord called my dad to be a missionary to the Philippines when I was four years old, but because my mom had worked her whole life to come to America from the Philippines, she did not want to go back. After my dad prayed for her for four years, my mom surrendered to the Lord's leading. Her specific burden came when she saw that so many cults had gone to the Philippines because they knew the people were searching for the truth.

While my family was on deputation, I became bitter towards my parents because I had to leave school and all of my friends. Suddenly, I was forced to spend 24 hours a day in a van or hotel room with my parents and brother for 2 years. But the Lord used the constant preaching to soften my heart for the hurting around me.

I realized that my parents were just following what the Lord had called them to do, and since I was their daughter, He had also called me to be obedient and submissive to them. After I asked for forgiveness from my parents, there was such peace that I was following the Lord's will. During those years, I surrendered to full-time ministry.

But it wasn't until we moved to the Philippines that the Lord worked on my

heart specifically about being a missionary myself. Seeing the mission field firsthand at seventeen and seeing my parents' dedication and sacrifice in the Lord's ministry changed my life.

I felt a burden to teach English on the mission field, and knowing how good the education program was at PCC, I chose to come here. The *A Beka* phonics and English helped me understand the Philippine language grammar better.

I was also able to use that to help the children and teenagers in our church to learn a little more English. My education classes have opened my eyes to

the importance of being a teacher and to the magnitude of the influence we have on our students.

Although I did not understand the Lord's plan at the time, I am so glad that He called my parents to the mission field. I would not change the experience of traveling around the country or moving to the mission field for anything. He taught me so much through those experiences and used that to help me be even more effective on a summer ESL (English as a Second Language) mission trip to Peru. It is amazing that the decisions you make and the experiences you go through really do directly affect you in the future." ■

"Seeing the mission field firsthand and seeing my parents' dedication and sacrifice in the Lord's ministry changed my life."

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

- Marketing • Computer Science • Accounting/Finance
- Criminal Justice • Professional Writing • History
- Speech • Art • Graphic Design • Mathematics
- Voice (Tenor) • Music (Strings) • Music (Woodwinds)
- Education

PCC Staff

- IT Computer Technician • IT Web Programmer
- Cabinet Maker • Textbook Curriculum Writer
- *Eagles* Soccer Coach • Locksmith

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- Educational Consultant

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