PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Campus Missions Church Missions CONFERENCE Story on pg. 4

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

From the **President**

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



Take action. Get involved. Get moving. Do something. In February, I challenged the student body with these words at the beginning of a chapel message entitled "Take Action," our theme for the spring semester.

Right from the outset, I told students what I hoped they would do as a result of the message: be motivated to take their faith to another level, showing Christ to others in a real way.

Taking action in the Christian life should come naturally, rather than from an effort to impress others or fulfill

an obligation. This truth is evident in the professions: musicians perform, doctors practice, architects build, and inventors create. People can possess great skills, but those skills wouldn't mean anything if they were never used. Likewise, only by taking action through faith in God can Christians reach their full potential in Christ.

Hebrews 11, often called the Bible's "Hall of Faith," gives the foundation for taking action with these words from verse 6: "But without faith it is impossible to please him...." Then the passage paints portraits of many of the Bible's heroes, showing how faith leads to action.

What a reminder of how important faith is to God! It is faith that compels

action in the Christian life. As James wrote in his epistle: "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

It's a great blessing to know that when we put our faith in God and step out to do what He wants us to do, He supplies the need. And it's then, when we take action on God's promises, that faith becomes evident to others.

Only by taking action through faith in God can Christians reach their full potential in Christ.

As the semester continues, it's amazing to see evidence of the student body taking God's Word to heart and taking

action in needful ways. To invest in the lives of the student body's newest members, the senior class officers hosted a PCC Senior-Freshman Connect. After severe thunderstorms brought a tornado to the northeast area of Pensacola, a large group of our young ladies donated water and food for relief efforts. And to reach the community, more student-led Christian Service outreach ministries have been started, with more students taking part each week.

More than ever, our communities, our country, and our world need to see Christians whose faith has led them to take action. It's a blessing to say that the student body at PCC is taking action to be those Christians!



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Amidst the class bells, lunch lines, lectures, and quizzes, one bell calls students to set aside their busy schedules and focus on God through preaching and songs. Four days a week, students gather in the Crowne



Centre for chapel. Clay Cox, a sophomore pastoral ministries major from Michigan, said, "Without chapel, my weeks would be much more difficult. I

need chapel not only to hear from the Lord, but to get a time to sit and not worry about class."

Men of God from around the country speak in chapel, encouraging students to stay in God's Word and focus on their relationship with Him. Alumnus **Matthew Roop** ('04) said, "I enjoyed hearing from great pastors from all over America as they opened God's Word and exhorted students to stay faithful to God when they were overwhelmed. It was profoundly important to my relationship with God as a time to worship and meditate on God."

Dr. Dave Young ('92) recalls the influence that chapel had on his life as a student. "It has been more than a few years since I was a student sitting in chapel," he said, "but I can still read passages of Scripture and be reminded of truths I learned from the incredible variety of speakers we had. There is no doubt that my life was changed dramatically as I grew spiritually because of chapel hour."

Now as an evangelist and guest chapel speaker himself, Dr. Young hopes students recognize the unique opportunity they have to hear speakers from so many different backgrounds and ministries. "I often think that chapel is an opportunity for students to broaden their horizons in relation to their view of the body of Christ," he said. "There is no doubt that such a wide variety of

CHAPFI



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Dr. Dave Young '92 grad • Evangelist

The chapel messages that

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speakers and topics and styles were all used of God to prepare me for the incredibly varied ministries that I serve as an evangelist."

No matter their majors or fields of study, students are encouraged to use their talents for God's glory. Many chapel speakers have reminded students that



God needs talented men and women to serve in all vocations. Elementary and Spanish teacher **Ruth** (Silva) **UhI** ('08, MS '12) said, "While at college I was

growing academically, and through chapel, the messages allowed me to grow

spiritually. One aspect about chapel that helped me the most was when Dr. Mullenix would share simple, yet important, Christian life lessons."

Often, guest speakers spend time getting to know students around campus. **Dr. John Ray** has been speaking in chapel for over ten years. While on campus, he makes sure students know his schedule so he can visit with them. He takes students' prayer requests, committing to pray for each one by name for an entire year. "I offered to take prayer requests because of the response of the students to a message," he said. "I knew God was working, and I felt led to offer prayers. It was such a blessing getting to know the students better and to see God at work, that I decided to continue."



Over the years,

Dr. Ray has heard back from many of the students he has prayed for and is constantly amazed to see how God continues to work through their lives. Because the world's influence is so strong today, Dr. Ray's "greatest burden for these

> students is the reality that life in the twenty-first century is truly difficult. But I see their great desire to serve," he said.

> > Once college

days have ended, quizzes and exams will be forgotten and a new chapter in life will start. But the chapel messages that students have heard and applied to their lives will continue to influence future generations.

Dr. Young said, "The opportunity for spiritual growth that is afforded by hearing the Word of God preached every day will likely be a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

PCC HAPPENINGS

Ye Shall Be WITHIESSIES

In north Sudan, a young woman disappeared after boldly proclaiming her newfound faith in Christ. In Japan, a five-year-old boy wept because his father would not be able to spend eternity in heaven unless he accepted Christ. In the lvory Coast, men, women, and children came to know Christ through a Bible literacy program. All across the world, the gospel is changing lives, and people are sacrificing everything they have to share the good news.

This year's Campus Church Missions Conference turned hearts toward the harvest, encouraging the church family to consider how they can take part in missions. On Sunday, February 14, hundreds of PCC international students in native dress represented over 50 countries in the Parade of Nations. Campus Church coordinator Jason Young said, "It's exciting and humbling to see the worldwide impact the Campus Church has each week through these students."

Lydia, a junior from Sudan, was proud to represent her country as the first and only Sudanese student at PCC. She said, "It felt like a little glimpse of heaven, because in heaven there's going to be people from everywhere."

"I think the mission field is an adventure. I just love it," said Lydia, whose family serves as missionaries in Sudan. "When Muslims come to Christ, they want to tell the world. Letting go of Islam is the unforgivable sin, and they can't go back—they lose everything. But once they get past that point, it's amazing how fast they grow spiritually."

Missionary kid Josh Stanford (Soph., Japan) said, "In Japan they say, 'You're Japanese and a Christian?' almost as if those two things can't cross over. But our biggest mission is to show them that, yes, they can and should."

During the Campus Church conference, guest speakers **Dr. David Pittman** (pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Herndon, VA), **Dr. David Snyder** (president of BIMI), and **Dr. Bill Patterson** (president of Mount Abiram Baptist Missions) challenged students to look beyond their comfort zones and reach out to a lost

MISSIONS CONFERENCE



world. "Jesus Christ decided to have those who are forgiven tell the story," Dr. Pittman reminded the audience in a message delivered during the week.

Through missionary presentations, audiences saw firsthand the physical and spiritual needs around the world. Students were able to meet with missionaries and mission board representatives in the Commons to discuss ministry opportunities.

Missionary **Sarah Bodaly**, in the final stages of returning to Moldova, will be working alongside established missionaries to start a children's ministry. She has the opportunity to minister to children in state orphanages as well as teach practical skills to teenage girls who have outgrown the orphanages. Many of these girls run the risk of falling prey to human traffickers. Learning a skill enables them to support themselves. "There are more missionaries coming off the field than are going," Sarah said. "Don't ask yourself, 'Do I have to go?' but 'Is there a reason I shouldn't?'"

Growing up as a missionary kid in the Ivory Coast, **Bob Mach** ('15, M.S. student)



- Hundreds of PCC students represented over 50 countries in the Parade of Nations.
- Keynote speaker Dr. David Pittman challenged audiences to share the story of redemption with the lost.
- Church planter Chester Keith and dozens of other missionaries shared their ministries with PCC students.

has experienced firsthand the thrill of seeing people worship God in another language. He says that those students who believe God is calling them to the mission field should go on missions trips. "Each culture has its beautiful aspects, its intriguing aspects," Bob said. "You're able to get a good glimpse of how Christianity transcends cultures and how God truly does love and wants to save everybody."

Dan Bergman, from Jewish Awareness Ministries, said, "Keep your heart open to wherever the Lord may call you and then actively pursue that direction. Try to connect with churches and seek out mission boards to partner with to get you to the mission field."

While hearing about the great needs around the world, many students realized their responsibility to be a witness right where they are. As Lydia from Sudan said, "Everywhere is a mission field. It doesn't matter where you came from or where you're going after you graduate; just wherever you go make sure you let God's light shine through you."

SPOTLIGHT



Praising the Lord WITH HARP

When Marian Mihas ('96) was twenty-seven years old, she never expected to learn a new instrument. But her discovery of the harp happened at a time and place perfectly prepared by God.

Recalling her childhood, she said that "some of the most beautiful memories I have are attending church and Bible study regularly with my family. Often we stayed an extra hour after the service just to sing songs and hymns." Although she had an interest in music

since she was young, her focus had always been piano and voice.

Her discovery of the harp happened unexpectedly, at a time and place perfectly prepared by God. Mihas said, "It happened accidentally. One day, I went to my sister's harp lesson and fell in love ///// MUSIC MASTER'S GRAD

with its beautiful sound." After taking lessons herself, she found an insatiable desire to play the harp, using her newfound ability for the Lord.

For years, Mihas had used her abilities in music to touch lives. After majoring in voice on the undergrad level, she pursued a master's degree in music at

PCC. From 1997– 2005, she was the soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the Warren Civic Chorus. From 2007–2008,

"The best part about working with music is getting to worship along with the audience as I share my songs."

she performed vocal recitals in Athens, Greece. Currently, she teaches music and technology to middle school students. Performing in churches and other venues on the harp gave Mihas another outlet to praise the Lord through music.

"The best part about working with music is getting to worship along with the audience as I share my songs," she said. "It's such a privilege sharing God's love through music because as it transforms the audience, it's changing my heart, too." Mihas always encourages her audience to sing along to the classic hymns she plays. At each performance, Mihas's music has blessed listeners' lives and encouraged them. "I feel so humbled," she admitted. "I can only give credit to God for that."

This past April, Mihas debuted her first album, *The Lord Reigns: Songs & Hymns to Live By*, a collection of vocal and instrumental arrangements incorporating her ability in harp, along with strings, piano, and guitar. She hopes



the songs will remind listeners that God is in control and wants what is best for His children.

Looking back, she now sees how the Lord orchestrated all of the details for her album. "One of my first courses in my master's program at PCC used Finale, a software program for music composition," she said. "We also had assignments on arranging—another skill that I had never tried before. I remember wondering if I would ever need any of this in the future. The lessons

> from that class have proven to be some of the most valuable ones for me as a songwriter and arranger."

> > Writing and

arranging her own CD taught Mihas how important it is to rely on the Lord and His faithfulness. "From penning the first songs to holding the finished CD in my hands, the Lord has taught me to learn to wait on Him and trust that His timing is always perfect," she said. Recording her album in Nashville was a dream come true for Mihas, who was excited to work alongside other talented artists to complete her recording.

From her debut performance in a local church to newspaper write-ups promoting her album, interest in her music continues to grow.

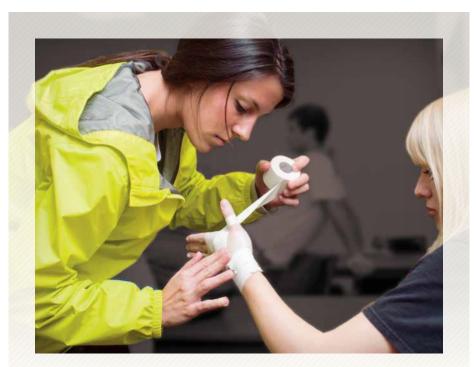
"I can easily trace the Lord's hand through every step of the way," said Mihas. "Now, I'm in the exciting stage of writing songs for my next album. I'm looking forward to seeing what God has in store!"

Discover PCC's Music Program

Music majors receive technical training and performance opportunities to skillfully serve the Lord with music. Visit our website to watch selections from recent concerts, read alumni testimonies, and see the program's course sequence.

Learn more at pcci.edu/Music.

MAJOR FOCUS





Pre-physical therapy graduates meet physical needs across the nation and internationally.

On the streets of Guatemala, hundreds of children sit paralyzed and weak from diseases like Guillain-Barré syndrome. These orphans search for kind hands to reach out and lift them up, teaching them to walk again and giving them hope.

To **Dr. Jessica Pennington** ('08), working with children during a medical missions trip to Guatemala gave her an opportunity to use her skills in a special way.

"I enjoy seeing the progress patients can make over their course of treatment," she said. "People are in pain. They need a helping hand and an ear to listen. I have met some of the most amazing



people throughout my $4 \ensuremath{^{1\!\!/_2}}$ years as a therapist."

Pennington's desire to be a therapist began while she was still in college. "By the beginning of my sophomore year at PCC, God directed me into selecting prephysical therapy. The courses challenged me and reaffirmed to me that this was the field that I needed to be in," she said. "The teachers invested in me and challenged me with their time, effort, and encouragement."

That encouragement helped Pennington earn her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Belmont University in 2011. She has also received the Unstoppable Award from PT Solutions for her leadership skills and work ethic. She is just one of the scores of pre-physical therapy graduates who are using their degrees to help the hurting.

PCC's natural sciences department has grown in popularity since the ad-



dition of the pre-physical therapy program. Biology faculty **Dr. Elijah Spencer** said, "Each year our program sees a larger number of students accepted into

a broader variety of graduate programs. We have had our graduates continue on to doctoral programs in physical therapy, cancer research, chiropractic medicine, and pharmacy, as well as a broad assortment of master's-degree programs."

That's because PCC's natural sciences program provides a strong, diverse background, preparing students for any number of careers. **Rasha Gammoh** ('06), another pre-physical therapy graduate,



found her niche working with the elderly. She said, "Physical therapy is truly a rewarding career full of special moments. However, it is extra special when you

see those achievements happen to individuals in their 80s, 90s, and even 100s."

Gammoh currently works as a physical therapist at two retirement facilities in Florida while she pursues her doctorate at the University of South Florida. "PCC's program was my first exposure to the physical therapy world," she said. "It started the groundwork for the following years of schooling. The program's physical therapy shadowing in various therapy settings was a confirmation of my interests."



Science faculty **Sean Vinaja** believes the greatest benefit to students considering a major in the natural sciences at PCC is found in Pensacola Chris-

tian College's name. "We are a Christian institution," he said. "We hold the Bible as our lens for interpreting scientific principles and data. Our students are God's children who deserve the best academic education, the best moral education, the most complete education."

Students graduating with degrees from the natural sciences have been suc-



cessful because of this complete education. Physics teacher James Ridgley said, "Our students are thoroughly prepared to go out into the workforce or

graduate schools and are confident they will succeed in the field God has chosen for them."

Pennington agrees that she was thoroughly prepared for her field. "I think that the most valuable training was building character with a heart for not only the body but for the soul," she said. "I have had many opportunities to share my faith with patients when they were hurting." She strongly believes that "PCC provided the opportunity to obtain a well-rounded base from which to launch into the field that I love."



Each spring, students look forward to connecting with friends on student outings in the Pensacola area.

As a freshman, Tim Golden ('14, M.F.A. student) made it his goal to go on every student outing the College had. Except for one canoeing outing, he reached his goal. "I went on as many as I could," Tim said. "They were great a lot of fun. I worked in dining services in the dish room, and everyone in there was really good friends, so we would always try to go together."

Each semester, students like Tim look forward to taking a break from textbooks and projects and enjoying time with friends on student or dating outings. Activities like canoeing down Blackwater River, cruising the bay to see dolphins, or watching the sunrise at the beach highlight Pensacola's unique attractions and surroundings. Other outings include watching the Blue Wahoos play baseball at an oceanside stadium, racing go-carts and playing miniature golf at The Track, or visiting a popular aquarium in Fort Walton Beach.

Students can sign up for any or all of the activities, going with a special date or a group of friends. And each event includes a meal from a local venue.

For **Dante DiCamillo**, a junior from Pennsylvania, outings are a fun way

to forge lasting friendships. "They're a great way to unwind and relax during the busyness of the semester," he said, "full of unforgettable people and memories."

The addition of two new outings this spring gave students something different to look forward to. Just across the Florida state line in Foley, Alabama, couples enjoyed shopping at Tanger Outlets then a catered lunch at West Campus. Others are looking forward to "The Amazing Race" at Camp o' the Pines later this semester. Students on the outing will team up to complete a series of fast-paced quests to reach the ultimate goal. Each member of the winning team will receive a free meal at Palms Grille.

According to Tim, going on the outings with a group of friends created the best memories no matter the destination. "It was the people I was with that made it the most fun," he said.



NEWS & EVENTS

Engineering Forum Highlights



Part of PCC's college experience includes seminars and forums devoted to students' specific areas of study. Seminars in English and history as well as forums in pre-medicine, the natural sciences, and engineering introduce students to active professionals who are influencing their fields. Past forum speakers have included **Senator Garrett Mason** ('06), Navy surgeon **Chad Edwards**, and NCIS Special Agent **Todd Grantham**.

This year's engineering forum highlighted the work of **Dr. Matthew Johnson** of the Institute for Human & Machine Cognition in Pensacola. During the forum, Johnson spoke about his recent work with humanoid robots and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Robotics Challenge.

During this three-year competition, Johnson and his team placed first and second overall in each phase. Some of the research and development he shared with PCC engineering students included lessons on hardware, software, and human-robot integration. Johnson wanted students to leave the forum with a clearer understanding of robotics. He said, "We hope this talk will provide insights that apply more widely to robotics development and design of human-machine systems."



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Campus Post Stories from Students

Wanting What God Wants

Jake Adkison (So., SC) had his whole life planned out: he wanted to be an engineering major and play college football. But God wanted something else for him. Read how the Lord turned Jake's thoughts toward ministry and guided him to be a pastoral ministries major at PCC.



I grew up in a Christian home. I was saved at the age of eight, but between the time of my salvation and my call to preach, it was a battle between what I wanted and what God wanted.

In sixth grade, I gained assurance of my salvation. But that next year, I entered middle school. Attending the local public school, I began slowly moving away from God and was picked on for being a Christian. At this point, I took a nosedive to learn all I could about things of the world.

The summer before my freshman year of high school, my family relocated to a small town in South Carolina. For the next two years, we struggled to find the church that God

wanted us to attend. Lakeside Baptist Church was very welcoming, and I was able to become very active in the youth group. I thank God for that church and what it did in my life. Through Lakeside, I came back to that close relationship with God.

When I was a junior, our church visited PCC. I had never heard of the school and thought a trip to Florida would be fun. At this point in my life, I was seeking to be an engineering student and maybe play football, but God had other plans for me.

While visiting PCC, it was awesome to be in a place with so many people that

loved God. After visiting the school, surrendering to the ministry was in my heart, but I just tried to ignore it.

My junior and senior year of high school, I had the opportunity to be involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes program. This involvement included leading a weekly Bible study during lunch. Again, I felt the Lord calling me to preach. Then the night before one of our studies, I was preparing and I knew that God was talking to me. For the last few weeks, I

"While visiting PCC, it was awesome to be in a place with so many people that loved God." had discussed how God could use anyone, from Rahab to Paul. I knew that God wanted me to surrender to the ministry and that God could use anyone—even me.

Attending PCC, the Bible classes have been so profitable. As a product of the public school system, I was never around much Bible knowledge. Everything I knew was from personal devotions and church. These classes have been humbling and educational.

After graduating from PCC with a pastoral ministries degree, I hope to attend Pensacola Theological Seminary and be part of the graduate assistant program while I get my master of divinity. After that, I will go wherever the Lord leads. This is what God wants me to do."

CONNECTIONS

Employment Opportunities

Have you considered what you can do for the Lord's work on a growing college campus? Openings in the following areas—

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