

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
UPDATE

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pg. 4 ►
Eagles Soccer
HIGHLIGHTS

From the **President**

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



College life feels as if something big is going on nearly every moment of every day. When I think about the semester we just finished, that's the feeling I get. So much was packed into the past four months—learning experiences, service opportunities, civic events, spiritual endeavors, sports, Fine Arts, and many other activities.

With all that took place, it's hard to single out any one thing as standing higher than the rest. From my perspective, the semester could simply be summed up as being a good, strong start to the school year, the kind of semester that fills you with a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment.

Our thanks goes to God for His blessing on this ministry, our team, and the students.

His blessing extends even to the spirit on campus, which has been excellent. As our students went about their day-to-day activities, they consistently looked outside their routines and found ways to influence the lives of others for Christ and encourage one another.

This was evident on the soccer fields, in prayer groups, and during

a special Student Body program in November. (See page 10.)

Students also encouraged each other during the election season this fall. They gathered each week to pray for the country, and some were able to be involved with local campaigns. On Election Day, our students took part in the democratic process when they cast their ballots, many doing so for the first time.

As I watched their excitement to be part of a national event—part of America's unfolding history—I was reminded

about the influence our students and alumni have as citizens of our country. In the areas God has placed them, all across the United States, they have

the opportunity to be a light for God and an influence for good.

Some alumni are serving in the halls of state and federal legislatures, making a difference as leaders of this generation. And others are serving God in a variety of other ministries and vocations. As they serve God, they have the opportunity we all have: to live our lives as followers of Christ in a nation founded on biblical principles, a nation of liberty and of freedom to worship God and make Him known. ■

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Active CITIZENSHIP

For PCC students, this year's election served as a reminder to strengthen their commitment to God and their allegiance to country.

We have a biblical responsibility to be involved in politics," said **Garrett Mason** ('06), the Maine Senate Republican Majority Leader, who spoke during the October Student Body program. "In the United States live 96 million evangelical Christians. If all 96 million came out and voted their values, voted their conscience, voted their faith, elections wouldn't be a contest. We, as Christians, would decide our leaders." Mason encouraged the students to take an active role in the November presidential election and also in the years to come.

On and off campus, students undertook patriotic initiatives to make a difference this fall. In the Multimedia Auditorium, students met on Thursday each week for Homefront, a time to review current events in the nation, give a topic of prayer for the night, and then unite in prayer together.

For many like **Abby Stanczak** (Sr., TN), attending Homefront is a way to defend the United States. "I want to know how to specifically pray for our nation," she said. "As American citizens, I think we all have a responsibility to take a part



- ◀ Each week at Homefront, students voluntarily gather to present America's needs and then pray for the country.
- ▶ Senator Garrett Mason ('06 grad), the Senate Republican Majority Leader of Maine, spoke during a special patriotic Student Body program.



in our country and show that we truly do care.”

While introducing a two-part chapel “Saving America Begins with You,” President Shoemaker challenged students to get involved politically. “The future of our country is in your hands,” he said. “What are you going to do about it?”

Guest speaker and Patriot Academy founder, **Dr. Rick Green**, spent the two chapels discussing America’s Christian heritage. “Who’s responsible if we are ruled by the righteous or the wicked?” he asked. “You are. You’re responsible for what our government looks like. God has given us the ability to choose who is in charge.”

Bailey (Andrus) Crocker (Sr., CT) came away from chapel with a greater appreciation for her ability to make a difference politically. “Chapel applied to me because it opened my viewpoint to make me think that, even if I’m not in politics, I can still do something to help the United States just by being a citizen,” she said.

Many students were active citizens this summer, interning or volunteering politically and attending political debates. **Emily Frary** (So., FL) used her time to help Representative Matt Gaetz campaign in Florida. While she made calls and passed out flyers promoting the candidate’s positions, she came to an astonishing realization.

“Many people that I spoke to personally had no idea who Matt Gaetz was or who any of the candidates were for that matter,” she said. “A lot of people just hear a good story and go strictly off of what they’re hearing, rather than doing the research and choosing the best candidate.”

To Emily, not researching for the best candidate is being a bad steward of what God has given. “I realize God is in command and that nothing happens without His hand being involved, but we have a responsibility, too,” she said. “We need leaders that will stand for what they know to be true and right.”

Although patriotism might be lacking in many millennials, PCC students proudly showed their patriotic spirit. Wearing “I Voted” stickers on Election Day after casting their votes, students also displayed their red, white, and blue during the day.

Sophomore **Grant Ryan** (TN) was excited to cast his vote for the first time this election. “As a Christian, it was easy to say, ‘God knows who’s going to win this election already,’” he said. “But it was another thing for me to realize on a personal level that He truly does love us and does what’s best for us. I’ve learned from this election that though seemingly insignificant, each vote truly does count.” ■

**“God is in command,
but we have a
responsibility, too.”**



- ◀ Students, many voting for the first time, registered to vote on campus ahead of the November election.
- ▶ Across campus on Election Day, students wore America’s colors and proudly displayed their “I Voted” stickers.



NET Gains

What *Eagles* soccer means to players, parents, and fans.



The score remained tied with just minutes to go in the *Eagles* first home game of the season. The game had already gone into double overtime, and each team held their own while the seconds ticked off, knowing that the next goal would end the game. Time slowed as the *Eagles* ramped up their offense. A near shot and miss. Then, it happened—with a powerful kick, forward Nick Standridge (*Fr., OH*) scored the golden goal, putting the *Eagles* up 3-2. Unable to contain their excitement, fans stormed the field to celebrate.

“The season we had as a first-year team was unreal,” said Paul Stewart (*Fr., NY*). “Home opening was definitely the highlight. Everything about it—the way we came back, the way we won, and then a freshman scoring the winning goal in overtime and beating the number-one team in our region!”

From the beginning, the *Eagles* soccer team, under the leadership of Coach

Fred Johnson and assistant coaches Joe Liwosz and Ryan Kennard, earned a reputation for being an extraordinary first-year team. With hard work and humility, they quickly made their way to the top of their division, consistently ranked in the top four teams throughout the season. “The team’s spirit is humble, and the guys really work well together,” said Curtis Campbell (*So., AL*), who has

several friends on the team. “They respect their coach, they respect each other, and they have respect for all the other teams they play.”

For most of the *Eagles*, the chance to play intercollegiate soccer was a dream come true. Adrian Torres (*Jr., Mexico*) came to PCC never expecting the opportunity to play. He said, “I’ve been wanting to play college soccer my entire life, and it means a lot to me. It’s something where I can grow as a leader and person. I’m really grateful PCC took that step, and hopefully it can be a step to different

From the beginning, the *Eagles* soccer team has earned a reputation for being an extraordinary first-year team.



- ▲ **THE TEAM:** This season, the *Eagles* had 3 players named to the NCCAA's South Conference First Team and 1 player named to the Second Team. Additionally, Coach Johnson was awarded Coach of the Year.
- ▲ **THE GOAL:** Freshman Nick Standridge (#12) kicked the winning goal in double overtime to defeat Trinity Baptist College during the *Eagles'* first home game in September.

opportunities in order to impact the world for others and especially Christ.”
(Read more about Adrian on pg. 12.)

Goalie **Taylor Jensen** (Jr., ID) said, “My favorite part about being on the team is the friendships I’ve built this year. Spending every day with the guys has been a great experience—we have a lot of unique people with different backgrounds, and it has been fun to get to know all of them.”

Eagles soccer fans unable to attend the games enthusiastically cheered for

the team from afar. Tracy Jensen was the mom who never missed a game when her son was growing up. “As a parent of a player, it’s been so fun to watch the games that are streamed live,” she said. “We live in northern Idaho and can’t really pop over for a game. I’m grateful to still be able to watch many of Taylor’s games!”

At the conclusion of the season, the *Eagles* soccer team, young and full of potential, finished fourth in the NCCAA Division II. ■

Written several weeks ago, the article above reflects the energy and excitement at the end of the Eagles soccer season. At the time of publication however, the PCC family was saddened by the passing of head coach Dr. Fred Johnson. While we sorrow his loss, we rejoice in the influence he had on students, players, and fellow servants of Christ.

In Memory of Dr. Fred Johnson



Dr. Fred Johnson went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, November 30, 2016. He was known as an enthusiastic coach and passionate teacher with a zeal for life throughout his service to the Lord at Pensacola Christian College.

A PCC alumnus, Dr. Johnson taught physical education and sport management courses for 27 years. In 2016, he lived his dream by becoming head coach of the *Eagles* soccer team for its inaugural year and received the 2016 NCCAA II Coach of the Year Award. He was well loved and respected by his team, and he will be greatly missed.



A Heart for HAITI

Alumni Chris and Bonnie Webb share a passion for reaching the people of Haiti with the gospel.

At just 8 years old, **Chris Webb** ('11) took his first missions trip to Haiti to visit the ministry his grandfather had established in 1981. He would return to Haiti over 50 times before he graduated from high school. "I saw extreme poverty and the need for the gospel," he recalled. Those needs would compel Chris to prepare at PCC for service on the mission field.

In the spring of 2009, Chris and other members of a summer missions team participated in special music during the Campus Church Missions Conference.

That same conference led freshman **Bonnie Garzarelli** ('12) to surrender her life to missions. During the fall semester, through mutual friends, Bonnie met Chris and learned about his passion for missions. She said, "As we got to know each other, I learned about his family's ministry, *Mission to Haiti*. It was not hard to fall in love with the pictures, stories, and his heart."

Just a year later, Bonnie visited Haiti with Chris and his family. Each day, they held two Bible schools—one at a church in the morning and one in a tent city

in the evening. Bonnie said, “It was a tremendous experience seeing the pictures and stories Chris told me come to life. Interacting with the children in person was a sweet glimpse to what the future would hold for me. When I returned home, I knew I would dedicate my life to ministry.”

After graduation, the newlywed couple joined *Mission to Haiti*. Chris serves as director of promotions while Bonnie is the sponsorship secretary. Over the years, the ministry has grown to include 15 churches—each with a Christian school and over 4,000 students attending those schools. The mission also focuses on construction projects, medical and dental needs, Bible schools, as well as food distribution for the needy. Chris and Bonnie oversee the sponsorship program helping many children become the first generation in their families to learn to read and write. They are both passionate about sharing Christ’s love with the Haitians as well as recruiting others to join the ministry.

This past summer, Chris, along with two PCC students and a Pensacola Theological Seminary student, started a youth camp in one of *Mission to Haiti*’s schools. Chris said, “We had 50 young men and women from the age of 18 to 25 eager to hear and grow in the Word of God. We saw these young adults soaking in the Word of God like sponges. We could see from the looks on their faces to the speed in which they took notes, that their hearts were open to becoming servant leaders. That week, the Lord opened many hearts—two in particular answered the call to missions.”

“We saw these young adults soaking in the Word of God. Their hearts were open to becoming servant leaders.”

Already, another pastor in Haiti has begged for a team to hold a youth camp in his village next year.

Nick Zarrella, who took part in the 2016 youth camp, hopes to return next year to partner with the Webbs again. He said, “Traversing the broken streets and sidewalks, witnessing the faces of locals clustered in tiny concrete homes, and feeling the loving touch of the tiny hands of little Haitian children placed in your own was an absolute blessing. The reception for the Bible and hunger to learn more was incredible.”

For the Webbs, it’s the passion the Haitians have to know more about God that keeps them focused on the work and determined to share their ministry with others. The need is great—especially since the hurricane that recently pounded the small country. “Hurricane Matthew brought a lot of devastation,” Chris said. “But we have seen people in our communities filling up our churches. In the midst of the trial, we praise God for the increase.”

Local Christians partnered with *Mission to Haiti* to distribute thousands of pounds of food and to assist the needy during this difficult time.

“The Haitian people have a special love for the Lord,” Chris said. “Many times I have seen them in church praying by candlelight before the sun is even up. I was once told that if the Haitian people ever stopped praying for their country that Haiti would fall apart. The devastation does not destroy their faith, but only seems to define it and grow the Haitians stronger.” ■

Training GROUND

Through study of God's Word and service to others, students in the Bible program graduate ready for ministry.



Missions grad Charity Buchan ('00) had planned to be a full-time missionary. But instead of heading to Africa or South America or the Middle East, Charity became a homeschooling mother of six in Georgia.

"I wondered why I was supposed to get that missionary training if I weren't going to the mission field," she said. "I've since realized that my home and children are my primary mission field. It was my good missionary training that has helped me in many arenas of life now."

While earning degrees in Bible, missions, or another ministry concentration

prepares students for full-time Christian service, these degrees also prepare them to minister in daily life: while educating their children, working in a secular field, or just helping a neighbor.

Veteran teacher Dr. Brian Bucy has taught over ten different Bible classes through the years at PCC. "I have had the privilege of teaching students from every major," he said. "I greatly desire that my students gain a vivid awareness of who God is so that they might know Him and make Him known throughout the earth in whatever vocation God calls them."

When students gain a Bible degree at PCC, they also gain real-world experi-

ence sharing the gospel and ministering to those in the community.

Seminary master's student Ben Muldoon took the time to minister to the local community this fall, serving up popcorn at Campus Church's Pensacola Day outreach. "I love the activity of the church because it gives me a way to show Jesus Christ and do what He did," Ben said. "Jesus never neglected the multitude when training his disciples. When we serve, we get to be like Christ."

Dr. Dan Rushing, Dean of Biblical Studies and Pensacola Theological Seminary, said that the Bible classes and degrees are useful to all students because "they provide a focused study in the Bible, the Book that provides the best foundation for every area of life."

Youth pastor **Kurt Copeland** ('93) has used this foundation for over twenty years at Franklin Road Baptist Church. "During my college years at PCC, I really learned to develop a personal walk with God," he said. "The most valuable part of my training was learning to be genuine and real for Christ."

As Pastor Copeland works with teenagers, that genuine quality has encouraged them to trust him and share their hearts with him. "What I saw modeled by the administration at PCC was a spirit of excellence coupled with an attitude of service," he said. "I sensed that from Dr. Horton down through the teachers. It has been a great challenge to me to genuinely love and lead the teens that God has placed in my life." Throughout the course of his ministry, he has seen over 250 teenagers go to Christian colleges with over 60 in full-time Christian service.

Dr. Dan Troutman, who teaches Youth Ministry classes, strives to give his students a glimpse of "preparing young people for a lifetime of serving God." His classes focus on preparing students to study God's Word on their own. "I try to have assignments that teach specific Bible study skills so that all students can see that this is something they can do on their own," said Troutman. "I'm not just teaching pastors and youth pastors but also deacons, Sunday school teachers, homeschool moms, Christian educators, and so on. They all need tools to study the Bible."

Nursing graduate Trisha Piero ('13) chose to start a second master's in Bible Exposition to better aid her understanding of Scripture and help her on mission trips with her husband. "The Lord continues to use my Bible classes to teach me more about Him and to share Him with others," she said.

As teachers strive to make their classes applicable for students in various majors, they share one common goal. Faculty member Jared Twigg says that goal "is

to always break the Bible down into manageable pieces so that students have at least the foundational starting point for a given passage of Scripture."

While many students do major in general Bible, some students choose to double major in Bible and a specific area of interest. Twigg believes "this double majoring prepares students for a greater capacity to serve the Lord as they engage in their profession. Our philosophy as believers should always be 'I'm a Christian first and a professional second.'" ■



Kurt Copeland

"The most valuable part of my training was learning to be genuine and real for Christ."



Student Body Officers (L to R)

Andrew Bowden, Morgan Sanders, Jared Benson, Draa Mackey, Kailey Clark, Josh Gallegos

The Cause OF CHRIST

November's Student Body program inspired students to focus on serving others this season.

This fall, the Student Body officers put together a November Spotlight, highlighting fellow students who have shown the love of Christ to others. "Going into this year, we knew we wanted to both inspire and involve students," said Student Body president Josh Gallegos (Sr., CO). "These stories are about the average student who was used by God to further the cause."

After students submitted their entries, the officers chose seven to be presented as short skits, weaving together both humorous and teachable moments.

As the students laughed and smiled through the skits, Student Body chaplain Draa Mackey (Jr., ME) encouraged the audience. "I want us to see how we can go through this Christian life and persevere without losing focus," he said. "We need to keep our perspective on Christ and remain faithful in our Christian walk."

While some of the skits were light-hearted, others took a more serious

tone. Addison Hagberg (Jr., VA) recounted his summer at camp counseling a particularly difficult eight-year-old boy.

"On the first day I met Clarence, he had the biggest smile on his face and did not want to stop playing," Addison said. "However, I came to realize that Clarence could flip his emotions in a single moment if something did not go his way. During that week, Clarence told me life was all about himself, and my heart was burdened for him the entire week. At the end of the week, Clarence accepted Jesus as his Savior and my heart rejoiced!" he said.

Other students like Lydia Van Hall (Jr., MI) shared how they further God's cause in small ways like praying with an elderly woman at a nursing home or writing an anonymous letter to encourage a friend.

These stories shared through Student Body were meant to do just that—encourage students to keep looking forward and serving Christ each day. ■



Grad Presents at International Convention

During his second year of medical school at Florida State University, biology grad **Jeffrey Reese** (¹⁴) joined the Balance Disorder Clinic's research team to conduct a 12-week neurology study. During the research, the team used the Quix test, a 30-second tool to evaluate and diagnose dizzy patients.

Because of their extensive research, Jeffrey was invited to present the team's findings at the international convention of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). During his time in Vancouver, BC, Reese had the opportunity to talk to neurologists from around the world, some of whom plan to implement his team's clinical exam in their offices.

Currently, his team has published an article on their findings in the newsletter of the Florida Chapter Division of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine. Their abstract and poster have been published in *Neurology*, the official journal of the AAN, with plans to publish the full manuscript next year.

To get the full story about Jeffrey's research opportunity, visit—

pcci.edu/JeffreyReese. ■

Upcoming Events

PCC Spring Semester Opening Weekend for family and friends of students **January 21–23, 2017**

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

PCC Educator Recruitment for churches and Christian schools seeking candidates from among PCC students **February 27–28, 2017**

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

PCC Career Fair for organizations and businesses seeking candidates from among PCC students **March 2, 2017**

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

Enrichment Retreat a refreshing getaway for pastors and ministry leaders **March 7–9, 2017**

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College Days for high school seniors, juniors, sophomores, and qualified high school graduates **Mar. 30–Apr. 1, 2017 • Apr. 20–22, 2017**

1-800-PCC-INFO (1-800-722-4636)
pcci.edu/CollegeDays

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

Serving through Sports

From the time **Adrian Torres (Jr., TX)** was four years old, he imagined himself playing competitive soccer at a higher level. Read how the Lord fulfilled Adrian's desire and led him to be a sport management major at PCC and NCCAA II Student Athlete of the Week for the *Eagles* soccer team.



Life goes beyond soccer, and soccer is just a small part of my life; yet God answered a prayer in my heart from when I was little. My mom put me on a team when I was four years old in Mexico, and that's how it all started.

Even though we lived in Mexico and grew up Catholic, my parents had this vision of us getting a Christian education, learning English, and living in America. Because we were dual citizens, we could live in Mexico and cross the border to go to school in Texas.

Although I went to a Christian school, I did not get saved until my eighth grade year. Salvation was something I knew about, but it wasn't something that had become really personal to me.

After I became a Christian, I had it in my heart that I wanted to go to a Christian college. My sister ended up coming to PCC and then my brother. I came and visited, and I really liked the atmosphere and the campus.

When I came to PCC, I really didn't know much about the sport management program, but it was something that I had peace about, especially since I've had a passion for sports my whole life. I want to use my sport management degree to reach young people. Using sports, my passion, to reach kids would be a dream come true.

When PCC announced in Student Body that it would have an intercollegiate soccer team, my heart started beating faster. This was something I was really looking forward to, and although I didn't know the details, I was eager to join. Having an intercollegiate soccer team adds another incredible element to a wonderful college experience.

I can definitely see God's hand in all of this. I'm grateful I came to PCC because I've found some of my best friends here,

and now, I've been able to play soccer.

Being the NCCAA District II Student Athlete of the Week was a really neat experience. Although it was something

that I wasn't expecting at the beginning of the season, it was definitely a reward from God. It was really humbling at the same time because it wouldn't have been possible without my teammates. They pushed me in practice every day and helped me to become a better player.

When I'm out there on Eagle Field, everyone's cheering for our team. I have never felt that from so many people before. We have a good program, and it was definitely a successful first season. Soccer has been a huge part of my life, and I thank God for the opportunity to represent Him through this wonderful sport." ■

“Having an intercollegiate soccer team adds another incredible element to a wonderful college experience.”

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

- Accounting • Biblical Languages • Business
- Computer Science • Criminal Justice • Finance
- Graphic Design • Management • Marketing
- Mathematics • Mechanical Engineering
- Music (Woodwinds) • Nursing • Office Administration
- Professional Writing • Speech • Studio Art

PCC Staff

- Advertising Digital Designer • Dining Supervisor
- HVAC Technician • IT Computer Programmer
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