

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

UPDATE

Fall 2017 | pcci.edu/Update



A Summer of
SERVING
pg.2 ►



From the **President**

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



Can you remember that first moment you arrived at college? For many of us, our parents dropped us off and departed soon after, leaving us to start the adventure on our own. Without the smartphone and text messaging today's students have, we had to push through any separation anxiety we may have felt, navigate a new environment, and figure out schedules (and everything else) for ourselves. For me, those were certainly some faith-building days in my life as I learned to fully depend on God.

Even though this generation of students has benefited from technology and other advances since then, they still encounter many of the same struggles as they start college.

That's why our team has devoted the time and effort to evaluate how we can better serve our students. Through research gleaned from studies in higher education, and feedback from surveys and suggestions, we have heightened our awareness of what students need to be successful.

For example, faculty, staff, and student helpers improved how they support students through the first steps of college. A personalized checklist, a streamlined online registration process, and informational meetings were integrated to make each student's transition as smooth as possible.

From there, a reconfigured chapel

schedule for the first two weeks of the semester made it possible to share information on practical topics like time management, adjusting to a new environment, and personal safety.

Last, an updated approach to information delivery is helping us better communicate with students. After reviewing how and when we share announcements and information, we mapped out the best methods to reach students. Instead of sending mass notifications to the entire student body, we are tailoring messages and delivering them in smaller settings in a time-sensitive manner.

Many of these adjustments and improvements came from feedback we received from the students themselves. Their input was so helpful that we created a Student Advisory Panel to provide a direct connection between the student body and our leadership team. The Student Body officers, along with the class and collegian officers on this panel, will have opportunities to share their perspective on how we can continue to support students' academic, social, and spiritual development in accordance with PCC's mission and purpose.

My heart's desire for these students is that they'll start the year off without any burdens to keep them from following God's leading and preparing to serve Him. ■



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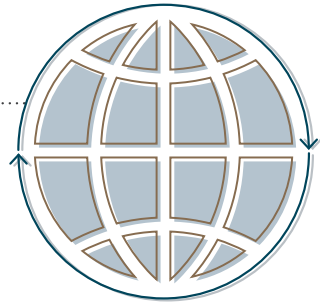
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HAPPENINGS



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Spanning THE GLOBE

Whether they stayed in Florida or traveled overseas, many PCC students and faculty spent their summer reaching others for Christ. Some volunteered in their community helping with VBS, volunteering in homeless shelters, or participating in other outreach ministries.

Isaiah Requintina (Jr., TX) traveled with one of PCC's eight Proclaim Ministry Teams. "I don't think I would've come to PCC without a Proclaim Team coming to my church back when I was young," Isaiah said, hoping this summer he had a similar influence. In addition to playing the piano on tour,



he shared his testimony, worked with youth activities, and helped with church yardwork. "It's really encouraging to see that the people in these small cities still serve the same God that I serve."

In West Africa, Jessie Griggs (So., OH) was learning the same thing during a Youth Outreach Ministry (YOM) missions trip. "In Ghana, there is a different culture, a different terrain, and a different people, but we are under the same sky serving the same God!" she said.

During their time in Ghana, Jessie and the team held 24 small Bible clubs, sharing the gospel with over 1,550 children. They also had 2 youth meetings with 100 teens and a variety of other outreach meetings. By the end of two

▼ Nearly 30 faculty members choose to serve in Youth Outreach Ministry summer camps.



weeks, the team had reached 3,780 people with the gospel and approximately 230 trusted Christ as their Savior.

Across the Atlantic in South America, Dr. Carlos Alvarez and Dr. Maybeth Elliot volunteered to co-lead a YOM team to Bolivia. Dr. Alvarez was excited to share the mission experience with the PCC students on his team. He said, “Mission trips open up students’ eyes to the needs of other people. They can see they’re regular people just like them who just need Jesus.”

Dr. Elliot agreed, saying, “I come back from missions trips feeling so blessed by

“God has taught me that there is a very large world out there that needs Him.”



God’s provision and care. I still have so much to learn! God has taught me that there is a very large world out there that needs Him. It is eye opening to see other countries and cultures.”

Throughout the summer, YOM sent eighteen teams to fifteen countries to share the gospel through teaching English as a second language, holding sports camps, and providing medical

clinics. Meanwhile in the states, students and faculty worked with YOM’s youth camps held on PCC’s campus.

Florian Messin (*Sr., France*), a Teen Extreme worker who grew up in a home without Christ, said, “I had never been to a Christian camp in my life nor had I ever been a leader before, but I had heard so many people saying that camps played such a big part in their spiritual walk—I wanted to be a part of that.”

Throughout the summer, Florian was responsible for a group of campers as well as helping with recreational activities and chapel invitations.

He participated in Teen Extreme to make a difference in the lives of others, but in the end, he found his own focus was changed. “I want God to be able to use me for something greater than me,” he said. “I want to be a more mature Christian with a greater passion for the things of God.”

Whether they ministered close or far, PCC’s students and faculty made an eternal difference this summer, a difference that spans the globe. ■

A-MAZE-ING *Beginnings*

Navigating the first week of college can be challenging. Follow these two freshmen to see how it's done right.

Arrival

The first stop students make after arriving on campus is the Academic Center to check in and receive their welcome packet. For Katie and Todd, check-in was pretty simple. Now they're off to unpack and meet roommates, then add those personal touches to their rooms. In Griffith Tower, Katie said, "I made my room feel more like home by hanging up pictures of friends and family across my bed."



Todd



Katie

Class Registration

Soon after arriving on campus, incoming freshmen take placement exams and register for classes. Then they meet with their academic advisors who help them create their schedule. After the first day of classes, Todd's favorite was English, but he also enjoyed Biology since it's in his field.

"It's very different from high school, of course," he said. "But I'm not afraid of it. My job is to do my best and study—God will take care of the rest."

Registration



2021 Connection Fellowship



Opening Meetings



Spiritual Support

With Bibles in hand, students head to the Crowne Centre for Opening Meetings. It's the first time the entire student body gathers together for the start of the semester. This year's speaker, Dr. Jeff Redlin, pastor of Front Range Baptist Church in Colorado, challenged students to take the next step in faith and watch as God provides.

Todd said, "Dr. Redlin was definitely very good. I love how he got involved with the crowd. He grabbed our attention, drew us in, and kept us there."

Social Connections

The smell of freshly baked salted caramel cookies wafts through the Commons as freshmen gather in the South Florida Room, eager to get acquainted with each other at the 2021 Connection.

"You can see that everyone's excited for this year," Katie said. "My favorite part is hearing everyone's majors and hearing their goals for their major."

Later that week, the New Student Connection gives the class of 2021 time to get to know each other better over pizza and games in the Sports Center. Upperclassmen bring their freshmen roommates, continuing the tradition they experienced when they arrived.

And just like that, the journey through the first week of college has ended! ■

New Student Connection



SPOTLIGHT



**"I am proud to serve the citizens
of North Carolina and protect
the wildlife resources for future
generations to enjoy."**



OUTDOOR *Adventures*

Depending on the time of year, criminal justice grad Tyler Ingle ('14) could be up at 2:30 a.m. monitoring duck hunting, putting in late hours patrolling waterways, or teaching boating or gun safety classes.

As a game warden, I have been entrusted to enforce the laws and to protect the wildlife and fishing resources of North Carolina," Tyler said. "I take this very seriously. Game wardens are the last line of defense against people taking more than their limits of wildlife."

When the alumnus left his small town in North Carolina to attend PCC, some questioned why he would move that far from home for college. But Tyler knew God had led him, and he was determined to learn all he could. He said, "I remember receiving my first semester schedule. I thought, How am I going to be able to get all this done? Well, long story short, I did."

Tyler, a criminal justice graduate, recalls walking into freshman speech class and doubting he would ever use those skills. Little did he know that one day he would address audiences of three to four hundred people at a time, make TV appearances, teach classes, and comfort family members who had lost a loved one in a boating or hunting accident.

"I had no idea that class would prepare me for my job the most," he said. "The Lord has a sense of humor, and as a game warden, I do public speaking all the time. Looking back, it is amazing how God used PCC to step by step get me out of my comfort zone."

Now, Tyler uses that same grit and determination he used to complete his degree to tackle his job each day. Every day is an adventure for the young game warden. "I go to work facing the unknown each day, but the reward is that each day is never the same," he said.

"My favorite part of my job is that I can influence people's lives. I meet so many different people from all different types of backgrounds. I have spoken with people in the North Carolina legislator's building all the way to kids in kindergarten. It amazes me that as a game warden I get to do that!"

As a Christian, Tyler's faith is as much a part of his life as his identity as a wild game officer. "I have seen that the Lord has used me to help people in some of the worst times in their lives," he said. "God puts Christians in unique positions to be used of Him. As a game warden, I have had the opportunity to pray with folks down on a river bank while I was working."

If you happen to pass through North Carolina someday, you might just spot Officer Ingle traversing the woods or on a boat patrolling the waterways. But one thing is certain: "I am proud to serve the citizens of North Carolina and protect the wildlife resources for future generations to enjoy," Tyler said. ■

"The Lord has used me to help people in some of the worst times in their lives. God puts Christians in unique positions to be used of Him."



Fulfilling PRESCRIPTIONS

Inside the rewarding world of pharmacy,
as described by PCC alumni in the field.

A mother stands in line waiting to pick up a prescription, a crying baby in one arm and a toddler tugging on the other. Behind the counter, Rebekah (Gruver) Garris ('10) greets the woman with a smile. As she attends to the woman, she silently prays for her as she's prayed for the other customers that day and every day.

Ilove getting to help people, whether that's getting them the medications they need, helping them better under-



stand their health conditions, or just taking a moment to listen to them and offering to pray for them if they're going through a difficult time," said Rebekah.

For the last three years, she has worked as the pharmacist-manager at D-REX Pharmacy, a local Christian-owned business in a town with less than 3,000 people.

She feels that her employment at D-REX was a direct result of the strong foundation she received in college. "The

pre-pharmacy program at PCC was exactly what I needed to prepare me for academic success in pharmacy school and to give me a strong foundation upon which to build my professional career," she said.

That foundation was established through classes like Physics, Organic Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Microbiology, Biology, and Biochemistry.

The teaching of **Dr. Carlos Alvarez** in



Sociology for Health Professions gave Rebekah a deeper understanding of people and emphasized the importance of taking the time to get to know

them. Dr. Alvarez strives to teach his students three tools to advance in pharmaceutical school.

“We emphasize academic performance, practical experience, and service,” he said. “A heart for the community stands out on a résumé. We emphasize interacting with multiple cultures through Christian Service and on mission trips. If students do everything, they’ll be very competitive for pharmaceutical school.”

Dr. James Ridgley, who teaches physics classes at PCC, strives to develop his students’ critical thinking skills. “I want to prepare them for the advanced analytical processes that they will encounter



later,” he said. “We do not merely teach theory, but students have the ability to learn foundational concepts within their field. They get hands-on experience with multiple lab courses and have the ability to practice the theories and concepts.”

While graduates in this field can be pharmacists in community retail stores like CVS, Rite Aid, and Walgreens, they can also be clinical pharmacists or consultants in hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities. Some even choose to work on the research side in

the pharmaceutical industry developing new drugs, conducting drug trials, or establishing safety regulations.

Recent graduate Jeffrey Reagan Snow ('16), currently enrolled in the Doctor of Pharmacy program at Union University, is grateful for the preparation he received at PCC.

“The pre-pharmacy program at PCC more than prepared me for this next

step in my life,” he said. “My educational background was more advanced than many of my fellow classmates because of the classes and requirements placed on me by PCC’s program. The first semester of classes in the Doc-

tor of Pharmacy program was almost entirely a review of material I had already learned from my undergraduate degree. As a result, I have now finished my first year and am carrying a 4.0 into my second year. I am convinced that students graduating with a degree in pre-pharmacy from PCC are equipped to handle doctorate school.”

Perhaps the greatest tool that PCC’s pre-pharmacy students take away from their undergraduate years is a heart attentive to the needs of their patients. Each day as these pharmacists measure out prescriptions, they’re not just filling bottles, they’re filling hearts. ■

“My educational background was more advanced than many of my fellow [doctoral] classmates because of the classes and requirements placed on me by PCC’s program.”



“The most valuable thing from PCC that has helped me in the pharmacy is the desire to know more—more about God, more about the human body.”

—Deanna (Cheung) Hill ('16)

▼ With a new calendar, favorite campus traditions like the Turkey Bowl will be held earlier.



Exciting Calendar Changes

Beginning this semester, PCC's Academic Calendar received some highly anticipated changes.

For students, faculty, and staff to have times to rest throughout the semester and extra time to celebrate favorite holidays with friends and family, President Shoemaker announced changes to the ministry calendar.

Midterm Break

Each semester will have a day off right before midterm exams, giving students extra time to study and prepare.

Veterans Day Observance

November 10, faculty, staff, and students will enjoy a day off to spend time with family and friends in honor of those who made us free.

Thanksgiving Holiday

The Thanksgiving Holiday will be extended to two days, November 23–24, giving students a four-day weekend and the opportunity to spend the holiday with their families. In order to continue a few favorite holiday traditions, College Days and the annual fall festivities will kick off a week earlier with the Turkey Bowl on

November 18 and the Fine Arts Series (*The Comedy of Errors*) on November 16–18.

Easter Holiday

The spring semester will include an extended Easter Holiday March 30 and April 2, giving students, faculty, and staff time to rest and reflect on the Lord's resurrection.

Calendar Coordinator Heather Fulfer said, "I am very excited about the longer Thanksgiving and new Easter holidays! What a blessing to be able to celebrate these holidays with family and friends!"



Students are also looking forward to the changes. Senior **Priscilla Meyer** (AL) said, "With the new days off, we can get extra work done or just relax a bit to refresh our brains. I'm really excited to go home for Thanksgiving for the first time in three years!" ■



Land clearing took place this summer.

Breaking Ground on New Residence Hall

Early on a sunny Florida morning, the groan of a backhoe signals that construction has begun on the new men's residence hall on campus. It's hard to imagine the eleven-story residence hall rendered on computers standing in this very spot that, until recently, was an entanglement of brush and oak trees. But progress is evident with each passing day.

The project is slated to be completed in just under two years and will understandably use some "astounding amounts of material" according to Jonathan Abbott, PCC's construction manager. "The structure is built mostly out of reinforced concrete and will take a few months to pour," he said.

Abbott projected that around 60 truckloads of concrete will be used every day during this stage of construction. "It will be well worth it though—once the building is ready, it will be able to house just shy of 1,000 students," he said.

Once the new residence hall is topped out, it will stand just over 143 feet tall, making it the tallest building on campus. "These projects just go to show how much PCC is alive and growing," said Abbott. "It's always exciting to see a Christ-honoring ministry like ours positively thriving." ■

Upcoming Events

College Days

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

Nov. 16–18, 2017

Apr. 5–7, 2018 • Apr. 19–21, 2018

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.

PCC Spring Semester Opening Weekend

for family and friends of students

January 19–21, 2018

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

Bible Conference

Uplifting Bible Preaching

February 19–21, 2018

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

PCC Educator Recruitment
for churches and Christian schools seeking candidates from among PCC students

February 26–27, 2018

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

PCC Career Fair

for organizations and businesses seeking candidates from among PCC students

March 1, 2018

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

Wherever He Calls

Florian Messin (Sr., France) traveled across the ocean to America to attend a Christian college. Read how the Lord saved this young man, brought him back from going astray, and led him to be a pastoral ministries major at PCC.



In northern France, right on the border with Belgium. My family is non-believing. I never went to church nor did I ever hear the gospel growing up. I had no knowledge of Christ or of what He'd done for me.

Growing up was definitely a struggle. My parents divorced when I was three, and my mother raised my siblings and me by herself. As a child, I went to public school so I am pretty familiar with the views non-believers hold.

When I was fourteen, my brother started going to a Baptist church in the next town. He got saved soon after and began to attend church on a regular basis. He talked me into going to church with him, and I listened to the message given by the pastor, a missionary in France for over thirty years.

At fifteen, I accepted Christ as my Savior. Right after I got saved, Satan started attacking me and pulled me away from church. After I graduated from high school, I went to college in France for two years where I was drifting away from God and His church.

I barely attended classes in college and was more preoccupied with partying than my school work. I think the breaking point for me was when I failed my second year in college and had to go back home with nothing to show for it.

When I went back home, my brother, who had just gotten back from Bible college in America, once again, talked me into going to church with him. I was looking for answers and my brother inviting me to church was the way God provided what I was looking for. The love shown to me by the church and the message preached by the pastor led me to confess my sins and to rededicate my life to Jesus.

I worked for the next year while looking for a Christian college to study at. During that time, my pastor told me about PCC.

After praying and researching it, God led me to come for the 2014 fall semester.

Since coming to PCC, both Bible

Doctrines classes have taught me so much. They definitely helped me get a firmer grasp on my beliefs and on what God's Word says about them.

There is a lot that God has taught me during my time here. I sat down with God's Word and figured out what I believed in and why.

When I came to PCC as a history major, I immediately felt God working in my heart to change my major. I struggled with this decision until I trusted that God would take care of me wherever He called me. As of right now, I do not know exactly what I will be doing after graduation, but I do know that God is calling me to be a pastor." ■

"I had no knowledge of Christ or of what He'd done for me."

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

- Graphic Design • Mathematics • Mechanical Engineering • Speech • Studio Art

PCC Staff

- Academic Customer Service • Auto/Truck Mechanic • Chief Financial Officer
- Construction • Designer/Illustrator/Production Artist • Dining Supervisor • Electrician
- Environmental Services Supervisor • Fire Alarm Technician • HVAC Technician
- Kitchen Appliance Repair Technician • Nursery Caregiver • Office Assistant • Painter
- Receiving Clerk • Scenic Artist • Senior Programmer/Network Technician/Web Programmer
- Security Officer • Textbook Curriculum Writer

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