

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
UPDATE

Summer 2017 | pcci.edu/Update

2017
Commencement
pg. 2 ▶



From the **President**

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the accomplishments of our graduates during Commencement. Time will tell how these young people will influence the world for Christ. But I'm certain they are ready for the challenges ahead because of the academic and spiritual training they received during their college years. Now alumni, they are joining thousands of other graduates from over the years in calling PCC their alma mater.

This ministry has a long heritage, and it's important to stop every now and then to reflect on it and to ensure its continuation.

Since assuming the office of president five years ago, I have devoted time to help refine the ministry's focus on what is most important. Specifically, we've reaffirmed our commitment to the Bible, increased our emphasis on evangelizing the lost, and strengthened our pursuit of excellence.

This stems from our desire as an institution to stand firmly rooted in the Bible and biblical principles. During the past few years, our leadership team, faculty, and staff have together made it a priority to promote an institutional culture that consciously aligns

with Scripture. What that means is: as a Christian college, everything we do must point back to the principles found in God's Word. As a result, our students will be able to experience the kind of campus where they can live and grow in a wholesome environment.

That doesn't mean PCC is exclusive, elite, or cut off from the rest of the world. But we are purposefully developing an environment that is conducive to spiritual growth.

Our leadership team, faculty, and staff have together made it a priority to promote an institutional culture that consciously aligns with Scripture.

We emphasize biblical teaching so our students know what they believe and why they believe it. Our approach to student development is focused on supporting them in making

the right decisions and restoring them if they make the wrong ones. Scripture tells us that people will know we follow Christ by the loving way that we support one another.

So as my fifth year as president comes to a close, by God's grace, the commitment to help PCC stay true to the Bible is stronger than ever. It is our prayer for this year's graduates, and all our alumni around the world, that they also will commit themselves to staying true to God's Word. ■

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NEW *Beginnings*



In May, 875 degrees were awarded from Pensacola Christian College, PCC Graduate Studies, and Pensacola Theological Seminary as students marched across the finish line of their studies and into new beginnings.

Nearly 8,700 people gathered on campus for PCC's 42nd Commencement to celebrate the students' diligence and faithfulness in finishing the work God had given them to do. In this honorable ceremony, Dr. John Bishop, evangelist from God Is So Good Ministries, encouraged the graduates to be a testimony for God in the world. Before delivering the address, Dr. Bishop received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, joined by Ray and Ann Gibbs who received honorary Doctor of Music degrees.

For the seniors, graduation day showed the product of God's forming and molding them to become better servants in the world. "In addition to classes, there are so many possibilities to serve and get involved both on and off this campus that have helped to shape me into who I am today," said Bobby Smith (*Youth Ministries*). "I will forever be grateful for my time here at PCC."

But as they looked toward the future, the seniors recalled the journey they had experienced and the help they had received from God. "This diploma," said Jonathan Torres (*Management*), "represents the struggles, the failed attempts, and the tears; but, more importantly, it shows me how good my God truly is. This piece of paper symbolizes God's unfailing faithfulness. It shows not so much what I've done, but what God has done for me." ■



President's Citation of Merit recipients Jeff Dempsey (MI) and Adina Barnett (FL) were awarded PCC's highest honor.

Dr. John Bishop



COMMENCEMENT

“Graduating is bittersweet—bitter because I love the atmosphere, the college experience, and learning, sweet because I’m ready to start my life.”

Corey Williams
Biology



“Being a senior means a sense of achievement, another major milestone in your life. Anticipation yet fear: the options are endless and yet you have to choose one.”

AnaBelle Eidson
Professional Writing



Faculty Academic Scholarship Award winners Daniel Reid (FL), Daniel Hill (MI), and Paul Antonio (Japan) earned highest undergraduate GPAs.

Architectural Rendering



CHANGE *of Residence*

With construction underway on a new men's residence hall, PCC's skyline will experience change in the coming months.

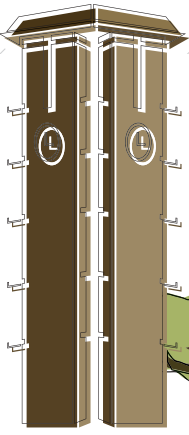
With enrollment trending upward for the past several years, PCC's residence halls have been filling up. So this year, President Troy Shoemaker announced the construction of a new men's residence hall projected to open in 2019.

As construction crews broke ground in June, PCC's director of operations, Eric Fears, couldn't help but share the collective enthusiasm about the project. "Seeing a new residence hall on campus for the first time in over twenty years is exciting!" he said.

Expected to be the tallest building on campus with 11 stories, the new residence hall will hold approximately 900 male students. Two spacious gathering

areas will accommodate the need for extra study space in addition to the day rooms. Built on the east side of campus, it will be the first main campus building to be constructed on Rawson Lane.

"The new residence hall will be such a great opportunity for the College to expand and allow more students to reside comfortably," said Carmen Tandadaja (*Sr., Indonesia*). Seeing the construction site and building in its beginning stages, he said, "I know I won't be able to experience the new building before I graduate, but I'm still excited to see how God will use the new residence hall to help the College grow. When I come back here as an alumnus, I look forward to seeing it completed." ■



NEW RESIDENCE HALL



The College COMMUNITY

If you were to think of PCC as a city, each room would be a home, each floor a street, each residence hall a subdivision. In each setting—and on the campus as a whole—students build friendships and create a feeling of community that unifies the student body. Here's what they have to say about life on campus.

"PCC taught me how to appreciate the little things such as memories—in and out of the room, services, and friends; and being content—though I don't have everything, I do have everything I need."

Josh Besite, Senior

"Favorite memory: meeting so many people through my work at the Campus Store...most specifically one of my best friends. She came through the line, I learned her name, introduced myself, but promptly forgot that I'd met her, because I see so many people. I actually met her a few times, but always forgot that I did! Fast forward a year later to sophomore year, and I ended up being her roommate; we've been best friends ever since—once I remembered her name."

Leah Farley, Senior

"When I first got here, it was a little overwhelming and scary, but I was really excited to be on my own and living away from home. Dorm life has been pretty fun for the most part, and I love my prayer group. Getting to pray with each other and share the highs and lows of our days really just makes the whole experience feel more like family."

Katie Hutt, Freshman

"The structure makes college the easiest for me. When I know what I'm doing for studying and classes, I can relax and enjoy my free time hanging out with friends at the Sports Center and around campus. I've gotten really close to a lot of guys—we can have a good time together, then buckle down and push each other to grow."

Joel Beck, Sophomore

OFF THE COURT

Onto the Field

Just weeks after graduating, pre-physical therapy grad and former Lady Eagle Alyssa Loudermilk ministered to youth in Brazil alongside other Eagles players.



▼ During breaks from college, Alyssa served in youth camp and on the mission field, including this 2016 trip to the Philippines.

After graduating from college, most students would take a break, but not former Lady Eagles basketball captain Alyssa Loudermilk ('17). Although her semesters were packed as a pre-physical therapy student and a guard for the Lady Eagles, she couldn't wait to join several other Eagles players for a two-week missions trip to Natal, Brazil.

Both sports and ministry are part of Alyssa's DNA, passed down from both sets of grandparents who served as missionaries in Japan. Her whole family also actively plays sports. "My dad used to play many sports—Japan asked him to ski in the Olympics," Alyssa said. "My mom's pretty active and all my siblings."

As for basketball, Alyssa started playing in third grade; later on she played for her high school team and in a scouting league.

Trying out for the Lady Eagles her

first semester at PCC came naturally for Alyssa. "College wouldn't have been the same if I hadn't had the opportunity to play," she said. "It helped with meeting new people right when I arrived and allowed me to be a part of something bigger than myself, teaching me that hard work and determination pays off."

During her summers, Alyssa split her time between serving in *Youth Outreach Ministry's* Teen Extreme Youth Camp and taking missions trips.

In the Philippines, she saw the effect that sports had in a ministry setting with

children. “Even if they couldn’t understand us, they would pay attention because we knew how to play basketball, and they love basketball,” she said. “That was cool to be able to have that connection with them automatically.”

Everywhere the team went, no matter the local living conditions, they found basketball courts and children eager to play with the Americans. “Sports is a universal theme because a lot of people are involved in it,” Alyssa said.

In fall 2016, Alyssa prepared for her senior year of college and her final season as a Lady Eagle. During her career, she had helped the team win three straight Regional Championships while being named First Team All-Regional, Regional Player of the Year, and First Team All-American. She had also become the Lady Eagles’ all-time leader in scoring (1,767 points), steals, and games played.

Still, during her final semester when she was awarded the Game Plan 4 Life award—the highest award given in the NCCAA II league—Alyssa could hardly believe it. She said, “Winning the GP4L award was unexpected; it showed me



that my testimony shows all the time. On and off the court, it was a blessing to know that someone was able to see Christ through me and the way I play. It meant a lot.”

In Brazil this summer, the mission team had a packed schedule. From teaching and coaching to holding a youth rally and visiting a home for abandoned children, to hauling dirt for a church

building project, they served willingly.

Part of the trip was dedicated to teaching ESL in one of Brazil’s public schools. Students and their parents responded so well to the program that the school requested them to return next year. And, of course, the athletes hit the court to hold basketball and volleyball camps for local youth, and one evening the Eagles and Lady Eagles competed against local teams.

“The missions trip to Brazil was meant to be an Eagles players missions trip where we were able to use the talents and athletic abilities that the Lord gave us to bring people to Him,” Alyssa said. “It’s the last thing that I took part in as a Lady Eagle, and I couldn’t think of a better way to end.” ■



“The missions trip to Brazil was the last thing that I took part in as a Lady Eagle, and I couldn’t think of a better way to end.”



Curtain Call

PERFORMANCE STUDIES

Preparing students to take their message beyond the stage and into the world as professional communicators

At the end of a production, every performer looks forward to joining hands with fellow cast members for the final bow. The curtain call unites cast and crew, reminding them that the production was worth the time, effort, and attention. But the performer's journey began long before that curtain call and with another call—to teach, inform, and inspire through the study of drama.

At PCC, students in the performance studies major participate in many productions, including renowned Shakespearean works such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and classic book adaptations like *A Christmas Carol*.

The experiences that they gain as cast and crew help them understand what theatre is. They see how the lights and sound work, understand the craft each performer uses to become his character, and ultimately learn the many facets of a theatrical production, how it transcends the medium to reach the hearts and minds of an audience.

"Performance studies is a well-rounded program that includes public speaking; solo interpretation of poetry, stories, and essays; acting; directing; scenic design; make up; and costumes," said Dr. Amy Bombard, dean of Visual and Performing Arts. Graduates with this degree work in a variety of communication fields including corporate, ministry, dramatic, and educational settings.

"The performance studies major covers a good amount of ground for any field you may want to enter that involves speech or speaking," said performance studies sophomore Ethan Dragon (NE).

Leadership, flexibility, and improvisation are just a few of the abilities cultivated in this major. "I really enjoy the communication aspect of the major," said freshman Grace Goldston (FL). "Whether it be through formal speaking, theatre and drama, or even just a regular conversation, I find the pattern of relaying certain messages through speech very interesting."

Classes such as Public Speaking, Oral Interpretation of Dramatic and Narrative Literature, and Voice and Communication have helped performance studies majors learn to be effective speakers in all settings.

“I enjoy the hands-on and practical application of theatre, directing, scriptwriting, and acting,” said Matt Tabor (*Jr., FL*). “Learning how and why to dedicate this art form to the Lord is so valuable.”

Starting each class and rehearsal with prayer and taking time to mentor students, PCC’s performance studies faculty treat the program as a training ground to prepare a future generation to stand on biblical principles as they use their dramatic talents for Christ.

While performance studies draws many students interested in acting, many find the talents they learn applicable to a variety of fields including business and management. The ability to communicate and present oneself professionally are the keys to success in any workplace.

“Have a plan for this major,” suggested Ethan to prospective students considering a performance studies major. “Take it because you have a passion for some outlet of performance. Become a teacher, or a local theatre performer, or whatever you feel God has for your life.”

In the end, God’s calling combined with each student’s perseverance and determination to learn his craft, results in accomplishing more than could be imagined. ■

Recent Productions

Students of any major and classification can get involved in over a dozen performance opportunities each year, from Fine Arts Series and Dramatic Productions to graduate recitals and Sunday Reflections.



La bohème



The Happiest Millionaire



The Scarlet Pimpernel

To see how this Fine Arts Series production developed from script to performance, visit pcci.edu/PagetoStage.

Performance Studies Video

pcci.edu/BeyondtheStage

Speech is about relating to people around you, about showing them a message that resonates. See how the Performance Studies program trains you to take your message beyond the stage and out into the world.





Mission Project Video
pcci.edu/MissionProject17



A Cause for Truth

Students took part in a campaign with BIMl to distribute Bibles in Papua New Guinea.

Is there not a cause?—in the beginning of the year, the student body officers asked this question. As David challenged the Israelites (1 Sam. 17:29), the student body officers encouraged students to stand up for God and not turn away from the truth.

Throughout the year, the officers presented different causes in every student body program, such as “A Cause for Our Country” in October and “A Cause for Leadership” in March. Through the annual Missions Run, PCC students saw another cause in furthering God’s truth in the world.

This year, the student body partnered with BIMl (Baptist International Missions, Inc.) to provide Bibles for children in Papua New Guinea. The country’s government had specifically requested the Bibles, desiring for God’s Word to be placed in each home.

Morgan Sanders (Sr., MO), student body vice president, said, “It’s exciting to see that this is already an ongoing

project. It’s already happening. It’s a national project that will try to cover a Bible for every child—and eventually, everybody—in Papua New Guinea.”

The student body participated by rounding up their purchases on campus, donating money, and running. Dressed in T-shirts with Papua New Guinea’s signature bird-of-paradise and “A Cause for Truth” design, thousands of students gathered on Eagle Field on Friday, April 28 around 10:30 p.m., eagerly awaiting the starting signal. Senior Jeff Dempsey (MI) said, “The run was fun and very exciting; it also unifies the student body, and afterwards, we are a lot closer. The run means a lot. But being able to support the children who are in need and invest in their eternity means even more.”

The project raised a total of \$87,243.84. These funds provided the children of Papua New Guinea with over 29,000 Bibles, which were distributed across the country in June. ■



Dr. Nancy Pontes (second from left)

Grad Inducted Into National Academies of Practice

Nursing alumna Dr. Nancy Pontes ('85) was inducted into the National Academies of Practice (NAP), a national organization that advises the United States government on health care delivery.

During the organization's annual conference, Dr. Pontes was honored as a Distinguished Fellow and Practitioner of the National Academies of Practice for her outstanding contributions and achievements as a health care leader, educator, researcher, and practitioner both locally and internationally.

Her current work as an assistant professor at Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden gives her the opportunity to teach while still working as a family nurse practitioner with a satellite clinic called Project Hope, a federally qualified health center. She is also the primary investigator on a \$550,000 Department of Education grant intended to increase Spanish language education for Rutgers' nursing students to study abroad in Bolivia, Guatemala, and Cuba.

"I don't really see myself as having accomplished that many impressive things, but I have been blessed to have had so many educational, practice, teaching, and research opportunities," said Pontes. "That is a miracle only God can do!" ■

Upcoming Events

Summer Seminar for Christian school administrators and teachers

July 25–28

(850) 478-8496, ext. 2828
pcci.edu/SummerSeminar

PCC Opening Weekend for family and friends of students

August 26–28

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

Teachers Clinic for Christian school teachers and office staff

October 9–10

(850) 478-8496, ext. 2828
pcci.edu/TeachersClinic

Ladies Celebration Spiritual retreat with God's Word at Camp o' the Pines

November 2–4

(850) 478-8496, ext. 2828
pcci.edu/LadiesCelebration

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

Nov. 16–18

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.

Living a Miraculous Life

Corene Jarrell (So., AL) was told by doctors that she wouldn't live to twenty. In a battle for her life, she struggles daily with the debilitating effects of cystic fibrosis, a disease that should render her incapacitated. But by the grace of God, she continues to live and thrive, hoping to reach troubled girls with God's message of grace.



At two months old, I was diagnosed with the genetic lung disease cystic fibrosis. When I was diagnosed, my doctors told my mother that she shouldn't expect me to live past ten years old. By God's blessing and mercy, I will be turning twenty-two years old this year, defeating all odds set by my doctors.

I rely on God's strength every day for not only my medical needs but everything else as well.

School had always been a challenge due to my health. I was the only student in school that

had cystic fibrosis (so you can imagine the difficulty in others understanding my condition).

Challenges are extremely common with my disease since it is progressive. By age twenty, I had undergone over twenty surgeries, three feeding tubes, and over ten catheters placed in my arms. I can't even count how many times I have been in the hospital for extended care. I have never weighed more than 100 pounds because my body is unable to digest food properly.

As I get older, my body continues to shut down at an ever-increasing rate. There is no cure, no miracle surgery or pill. I have had doctors tell me that I am dying faster every day—that my health is not like it used to be.

But my God is good. I could have never

made it this far without His strength. Each day He gives my broken lungs air, my paralyzed stomach the miraculous ability to halfway digest food, and my bones the ability to support my body despite my arthritis.

I have had nights where I was terrified of what my life will hold, but thank goodness, the One who holds my life has a perfect plan. In the times that I have been afraid or weak, thinking that my

disease is just too strong, I think of Isaiah 41:10: 'Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am

thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee.'

Up until I left for college, I hated my disease. I was bitter towards God for allowing me to be born sick. However, under the care and love of God Himself, my parents, and my closest friends, I have learned that God gives difficult battles to His strongest warriors and will see us through these trials of life. By His mercy, I have defeated so many odds and trials that have come my way.

With my degree in youth ministries from PCC, I plan to work with troubled teenage girls at detention centers and witness to women in prisons. My heart is burdened for these women because most of society sees them as a lost cause, but I know differently. No one is too far gone from God's grace." ■

"The One who holds my life has a perfect plan."

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

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

PCC Staff

- Construction • Educational Consultant
- HVAC Technician • IT Network Administrator
- IT Senior Programmer • IT SQL Server Administrator
- IT Web Programmer • Locksmith • Maintenance Electrician
- Office Assistant • Painter • Proofer
- Scene Shop Construction • Textbook Curriculum Writer
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