

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
UPDATE

Winter 2017 | pcci.edu/Update

HOLIDAYS 2017 +



Eagles Soccer
**NATIONAL
CHAMPIONS**

pg. 10

From the **President**

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



At this time of year, we celebrate the arrival of the Christ child, Emmanuel, *God with us*.

The coming of Jesus to earth—to be God with us—changed history. His earthly ministry was unlike any that humankind had ever witnessed. He brought hope to the hopeless and healing to the hurting. And when He gave up His life at Calvary, the Savior declared, “It is finished.”

Yet when He returned to heaven, the risen Savior commissioned us to continue the work of sharing the gospel with every creature.

During the Campus Church Missions Conference this fall, we learned of global needs from Honduras to Romania to “the uttermost part of the earth.” Many dedicated their lives to missions, while many more reaffirmed their commitment to being faithful witnesses wherever God may lead.

During the Conference, as students renewed their desire to reach others with the Good News, I was reminded of what the ministry of Pensacola Christian College is all about. While our team trains students for the future in their program of study, we share another purpose beyond academic prepa-

ration. As an institution founded on God’s Word, our purpose is to “produce Christian leaders who are knowledgeable, articulate, moral, dedicated to excellence, and committed to serving Jesus Christ....”

PCC sees each new group of incoming students as having the potential to turn the world upside down, just as the early followers of Christ did. While each student is here at college,

we’re committed to inspiring them to live a life of wholehearted service to Jesus Christ.

As our students leave the Pensacola area to visit their families during the holidays, my prayer is that the love of Christ will shine through them.

The world may grow darker each passing year, but the light of Christ shines all the more brightly. It is our duty not to hide our light, but rather to shine in every place God sends us. Each encounter, every conversation, can have eternal significance.

Let me encourage you to shine for Him this Christmas. Tell others of the Savior’s divine birth, sinless life, sacrificial death, and miraculous victory over the grave. And have a Merry Christmas! ■

**Tell others of the
Savior’s divine birth,
sinless life, sacrificial
death, and miraculous
victory over the grave.**

FEATURE

Missions Conference

02

HAPPENINGS

Holidays 2017

04

SPOTLIGHT

The Art of Puppeteering

06

MAJOR FOCUS

Chemistry Program

08

HIGHLIGHTS

Eagles Soccer
Championship Season

10

Fine Arts

11

CAMPUS POST

The Door to the Gospel

12

CONNECTIONS

Employment Opportunities

13



Connect with Us





Missions MINDED

Campus Church Missions Conference

When Ximena Porras was six years old, a missionary came to her village in Guatemala to hold a Vacation Bible School. “As the days went by, I began to realize that I needed the Jesus the missionary was talking about,” said Ximena. After accepting Christ as her Savior, she felt an overwhelming peace and a strong urge to share Jesus with others. “I was burdened at that age for the continent of Africa and felt the Lord was leading me to His call for my life—missions,” she said.

Now a junior at PCC, Ximena felt closer than ever to her calling as she participated in the Parade of Nations during the Campus Church Missions Conference. Approximately 175 international

students walked down the aisles of Campus Church wearing the traditional dress of their countries and holding 49 flags to represent each of their home nations. These students were a visual reminder to other Christians that the place they call home needs the light of Christ.

“I want to do my part, what God has planned for me to do,” said **Grace Zhen**



(Jr., China) who marched in the parade. “Many people never hear the gospel in their lifetime. They never know who God is.” Grace was especially grateful

to a missionary couple who helped her come to America when her family was being persecuted in China for their faith.



- ▶ PCC students represented 49 countries in the Parade of Nations at the start of Missions Conference.
- ▶ General director and president of WorldView Ministries, Dr. Ken Fielder delivered the keynote address, stirring hearts towards the Great Commission.



“They helped me a lot in my life, and they are the greatest example of missionaries to me!”

Daniel Akpatsu (Sr.) shared Grace’s feelings. He said, “My father heard the gospel from a missionary growing up in the village in Ghana, and that is how he got saved. I am thankful for that, because through this missionary sowing a seed in my dad’s life, my dad was able to spread the gospel to his family and pass it on to me.”



That desire to be used of the Lord to spread the gospel was reflected in the theme of Missions Conference, “Till the Whole World Knows.” Campus Church Coordinator Jason Young said, “It’s our prayer that we will see men, women, and children surrender their lives to serve the Lord through the testimony of the missionaries at this conference.”

Missionary Mike Kelly from Rock of Ages Prison Ministries said that “this church, this college, has a heart for missions to send people out and get things done. The greatest thing to see is that students’ hearts are into it, and their ears are open to the Lord’s will.”

The Conference touched on three major areas of missions: Bible translation, church planting, and medical outreach. Dr. Ken Fielder, general director and president of WorldView Ministries, opened the Conference with a challenging message.

“This generation of Christians must reach this generation of lost people,” he said. “We must take on the task as though it must be finished before we die. We need a culture that will no longer endure the mundane.” The Conference also included messages from Dr. Jeremy Pittman and Bradley Edmondson.

For the first time, the Missions Conference coincided with the Missionary Kids’ Dinner, a special event sponsored by the Overcomers, a Campus Church adult Bible study class. Each year, the class hosts a potluck-style dinner, featuring many favorite dishes that the missionary kids (MKs) who attend PCC rarely get in the States. They enjoy a time of food and fellowship and listen to a devotional shared by a missionary. Many missionaries from the Conference stayed for the dinner, chatting and encouraging the MKs.

One by one, the MKs stood to share details about the countries they call home. Missions faculty Dr. Brian Bucy, a member of the Overcomers class, said, “It was a blessing to hear how many of the MK’s introduced themselves by giving their name and then saying, ‘My parents and I are missionaries.’ They realized it was their mission field and not just Mom and Dad’s field.”

When the Conference came to a close, all were reminded to join the call to go out and preach the gospel until the whole world knows. ■



- ◀ Highlighting needs across the globe, missionaries presented how students can pray and get involved.
- ▶ In chapel, junior Ximena Porras shared how God led a missionary to her village in Guatemala, which turned her heart to the Savior and to missions.



2017 HOLIDAYS

This holiday season, students, faculty, staff, and alumni enjoyed more time with friends and family during Thanksgiving and Christmas activities, thanks to a new and improved academic calendar.

Fall Festivities

Turkey Bowl and the fall Fine Arts took place one week earlier, accommodating the extended Thanksgiving break. Students and College Days guests enjoyed watching Shakespeare's hilarious play about mistaken identity, *The Comedy of Errors*, which was set in 1930's Europe.

Thanksgiving Holidays

For the first time at PCC, the Thanksgiving Holidays were extended through Friday, giving students and staff a four-day weekend and the opportunity to spend the holiday out of town with their families.

Alumni Homecoming

The Friday after Thanksgiving, a special Alumni Homecoming welcomed graduates to a time exclusively for them. The two-day event included a dinner hosted by President and Mrs. Shoemaker, behind-the-scenes tours, and an Eagles vs. Alumni basketball game. Alumni enjoyed eating at the Palms Grille, touring campus, and visiting area attractions.

Turkey Bowl debuted at its new time during a breezy fall evening.



The Comedy of Errors

Alumni Homecoming





Commons



Holiday cheer spreads inside the Commons, thanks to the festive, 2-story Christmas tree.



Christmas Traditions

After Thanksgiving, thoughts (and decorations) quickly turned to Christmas! Thousands of twinkle lights illuminated campus in a warm glow at the annual Christmas Lights Celebration, kicking off the season with festive music, hot chocolate, candy canes, and special memories. Students laughed and chatted between live music selections, anticipating going home for the holidays.

Home for Christmas

Students will soon pile their suitcases into vehicles, carpooling home with friends or riding the PCC shuttle to the airport to fly home for the 5-week break. "I'll be going back to my roots in North Carolina and Virginia to spend time with my extended family," said Symphani Owens (So., FL). "I cannot wait to see friends and family as well as focus on the ultimate Christmas gift, Christ." ■

Christmas Lights Celebration





SKILLED HANDS

Bring Characters to Life

As a ten-year-old, Jennifer Himes ('09) watched an artistic presentation at church that would change her life forever. "That experience was what made me realize that art, specifically visual art, could be used to serve the Lord," she said. That inspiration led her to study art and acquire the skills needed to breathe life into each of her creations.

In high school, her interests in visual art became more focused on puppeteering as she studied Jim Henson's Muppets. "I decided that being a puppeteer had to be the most exciting job ever," she said. But in college, puppetry turned into more of a hobby than a career choice. Although she still performed puppets with the Campus Church puppet ministry, she began to pursue a wider array of art forms.

"Drawing, painting, and design classes at PCC laid a solid foundation that I have built on over the years," she said. "Learning sculpture unlocked a lot of drawing and design concepts that I had been struggling with for a long time. Without it, I never fully understood

form, particularly the human form, and composition. It was as though a light clicked on, and I found myself improving in those areas."

After earning a commercial art degree and a master's in studio art from PCC, she began working as a production artist but soon realized it wasn't the job for her. "I found that I didn't enjoy the work as much as I thought I would," she said. "After some soul-searching, I began to pursue puppetry as more than a hobby."

In 2015, she attended Beyond the Sock Puppetry Workshop for Television and Film, a special seminar taught by professional puppeteers including Muppet performer Peter Linz, who believed

Jennifer had talent. “At his recommendation, I auditioned at the Jim Henson Company Studios in Los Angeles,” said Jennifer. “That experience, and a whirlwind of events that happened after, solidified my decision to make puppetry my career.”

Throughout her journey, Jennifer has found herself returning to what she first learned. “PCC teaches art from a biblical perspective,” she said. “In Art History class we learned what the Bible says about art and God’s purpose for it. It helped me shape my own opinions and ideas about what art is and why it is a critically important part of our society.”

The more Jennifer learned, the more doors opened to her. “Sculpture, design, drawing, and painting came together to create creatures that came alive. In making puppets, I used it all!” she said, referencing the skills she learned in college. “One of the essential skills PCC’s art program taught me was how to give and take constructive criticism,” she said. “I use that practically every day. In any art industry, it’s important to have an attitude of learning. PCC taught me that.”

At first, she worked as a freelance designer and puppeteer, launching a website and YouTube channel. Because of her willingness to learn and apply herself, she now works with Universal Studios as a puppeteer. As she uses her energetic spirit and skills to bring the Universal puppets to life, Jennifer becomes a part of something bigger than herself.

“The experience of watching and performing puppets is one of inexpli-

cable joy that perhaps comes from the act of creation,” she said. “A puppet performance is an unspoken agreement between the performer and the audience that an inanimate object is alive. We are creating something together, and that brings us joy.”



**“In all of the arts,
we are capable of
implanting truth
in people’s hearts
in a way they will
never forget.”**

Another recent endeavor is a job with non-profit Michelee Puppets, performing shows for schools to encourage respect, responsibility, and positive choices.

Aside from working with Universal Studios and Michelee Puppets, Jennifer has also been asked to build and perform puppets for Jane Henson’s Nativity Story this holiday season. The late Jane Henson, wife of Muppets creator Jim Henson, created a lifelike nativity scene

re-enacting Christ’s birth with a Bible-come-to-life narration. Being asked to tour with this group is a dream job for Jennifer, who has admired Jane and Jim Henson’s work since high school.

“It is a great honor to be asked to add to the work of such a remarkable person. It is everything I’ve ever wanted to do with my talents put together in one beautiful work of art,” she said. “I believe God has called me to be a light in the puppet community.”

As Jennifer continues to use her talents in puppetry, she finds herself drawn closer to the Lord. “What a magical gift God has given us!” she said. “Not just in puppetry, but in all of the arts, we are capable of implanting truth in people’s hearts in a way they will never forget.” ■

Dr. Carlos Alvarez instructs senior Kevin Salomon.



⁷⁵ MIXED Reactions

Thoughts on the Study of Chemistry

Tucked away in a lab on third floor of the MacKenzie Building, chemistry students analyze the reaction of a basic solution with an acid, noting the visual changes. Andrew Foss (*NH*), a senior who plans to work in polymer science, charts the results. “I like chemistry because it’s involved in every science, and it sets the basis for every scientific field except physics. It also pays pretty well, too, because the demand for chemists is so great,” he explains. “Most manufacturing plants will have a chemistry lab in them because they use so many chemicals.”

Charles Lail III (*IN*), a sophomore in the chemistry program, said, “It was so neat to be able to think through something, predict the outcome, and then see my prediction proved true. It was a

link between classroom theory and the actual real world.”

Though little known to most people, chemistry is a field that plays an important role in nearly every aspect of life. From the medicine people take to the makeup they wear to the coffee they drink, at some level, chemistry is involved in the process.

“The whole universe is made up of matter and energy, and chemistry is the study of the interactions of matter and energy,” said **Dr. Shane Smith**, chair of the Natural Sciences Department. “We study chemistry to be wise stewards of God’s creation and to learn ways to help mankind with medicines, inventions, or improved materials.”



Senior **Vathna Kove** (*Cambodia*) said that studying chemistry “increased my faith more. We are seeing how God created His world.”



In classes, students study organic, inorganic, biological, analytical, and physical chemistry. In labs, they apply the concepts they’ve learned.

Graduate Rachel Demorell ('07), an analytical chemist at Nu Skin Enterprises, uses the skills she acquired at PCC on a daily basis. “I typically prepare samples and run tests using various analytical instrumentation to ensure that the quality of our products meets the label claims,” she said. “I spend most of my time in the laboratory, and at PCC, labs allowed me to get hands-on experience by teaching me to follow methods and techniques.”

Science faculty Dr. Sean Vinaja said, “When students understand when and why chemical processes occur in a beaker, they can also understand why the same chemical processes occur in a petri dish or in a living organism. My primary goal is to take students from knowing their memorized facts to actually applying the facts to solving a problem.”

The goal is not only a solid grasp of chemistry, but also a biblical worldview. Students gain a perspective of hope, even as they study a fallen world and seek to improve conditions. “Though under sin’s curse, the universe still displays

a marvelous plan,” Dr. Vinaja stated. “According to Genesis, God made everything for man; and if God made the universe according to a plan, then He made us with a plan, too.”

Anastasia Rairigh, M.D. ('04) has never forgotten the day her chemistry teacher prayed before class: *Oh God, help us to understand our reasonable service! That is, total dedication to the task at hand!* She recalls, “I wrote down his prayer immediately after and have carried it with me for the past almost 15 years.”

Anastasia and her classmates were studying chemistry, learning the discipline of critical thinking along with problem-solving skills that would prepare them for a variety of fields after college.

Some would use their knowledge to conduct scientific research. Others would go on to careers in forensic science, while some would pass on their love for chemistry to high school and college students. Anastasia would become a medical doctor and director of a clinic in rural Appalachia.

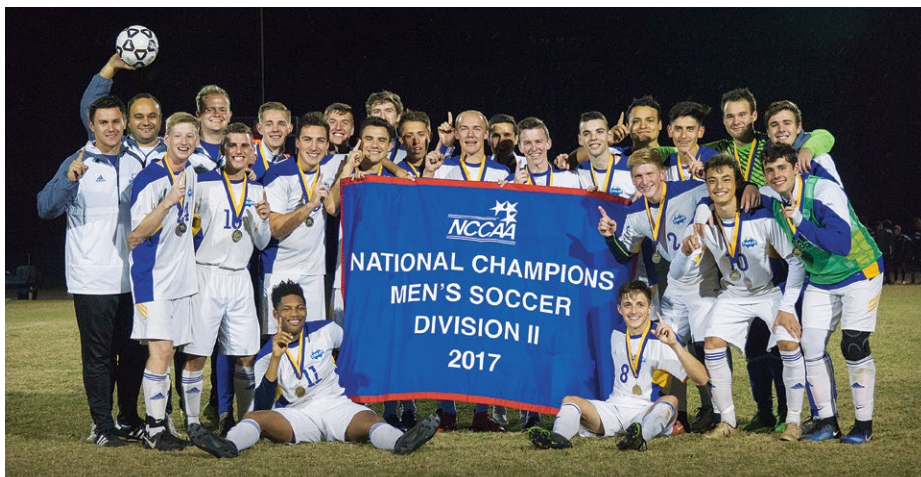
She believes her studies at PCC prepared her for serving an often-neglected community. “The teachers’ passion for excellence and dedication to rigorous scientific inquiry give impetus to my work to understand the forces that give rural Appalachia some of the worst life expectancy in the United States,” she said.

For those interested in studying chemistry, Dr. Vinaja advises, “Know your calling, know your purpose, and know your periodic table.” ■



“The chemistry major at PCC prepared me to be able to work in my current role in several ways. The program was very well tailored to allow someone to enter a wide variety of science-related fields. The experience I gained in school has allowed me to transition to several different industries.”

—Rachel Demorell ('07)



National Champions!

How the second-year Eagles soccer team won the NCCAA National Championship.

On November 18, the Eagles stepped out on the field for what would be their last game of the season. Emotions ran high as the guys warmed up for the match against Trinity Baptist College. The NCCAA DII National Title was on the line.

In 2016, the Eagles men's soccer team played their very first game under the leadership of Coach Fred Johnson. Though the team fell just short of Regionals, they established themselves as a highly competitive team early on, finishing the year standing at 11-8. Shortly after the season ended, the team experienced a tragic setback—Coach Johnson passed away, leaving his assistant coach Joe Liwosz and the Eagles to finish what they had together started in their inaugural season.

The team started their second season in August with one ultimate goal: to win the National Championship. Six seniors—Adrian Torres, Taylor Jensen, Josh Gijsbertha, Micah Hatcher, Cristian Reinosa, and Bobby Walker—led the team to victory after victory.

“There isn’t another group of guys I’d rather go to war with,” defender Torres

said. “As a senior, I am proud to see how this team has developed; these guys give 100% on a nightly basis. And I can tell you there was no better way for me to end my collegiate career than by winning a National Championship.”

Head Coach Liwosz said, “The composure, discipline, and testimony that this team showed throughout this season and during the tournament impressed not only our coaching staff but also everyone who watched us play. I am beyond excited and proud of this team for what they accomplished this year.”

With the win, the Eagles secured their first National Title in program history and finished off the season with a record of 15-6.

Midfielder Bobby Walker said, “It’s been an honor to represent my family, my friends, my school, and my God on the field. It has been a real privilege to play with this group of guys. Three years ago, I never imagined that I would play for an Eagles soccer team. I will forever be grateful to Coach Johnson and everyone who had a part in starting this program.” ■



The Music Before the Storm

In the days leading up to the first Fine Arts Series of the school year, students eagerly picked out bouquets or color coordinated outfits for group photos. But out in the Gulf of Mexico, Tropical Storm Nate was quickly moving toward land.

The possibility of tropical weather couldn't dampen enthusiasm for the anticipated return of the Liberty Voices, a world-renowned a cappella group.

Since the effects of Nate were predicted to impact the Pensacola area that night, the College took precautionary measures and canceled the formal evening event. On Saturday afternoon, the Liberty Voices instead put on a free matinee performance for students and guests to enjoy in casual attire, and nearly 2,000 attended.

Under gray skies, students waited outside residence halls, bearing flowers and gifts for their dates. "It was windy outside—I was worried that my hair would be messed up for the pictures," joked senior Dillon Richards (FL). "But I loved the casual and relaxed atmosphere. It fit well with the musical choices the Liberty Voices performed."

Junior Jenneth Dyck (VA) said, "Best guest Fine Arts ever, I think—absolutely a blast to be a part of and attend."

Later that night, with students safely sheltered in their residence halls, the outer edges of Hurricane Nate blew in, leaving just as quickly as they arrived. ■

Upcoming Events

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)

Enrichment Retreat a refreshing getaway for pastors and ministry leaders

March 20–22, 2018

(850) 478-8496, ext. 2828
EnrichmentRetreat.com

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

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.

The Door to the Gospel

Esther Xie (Sr.) chose to leave her family in China to double major in English and math education. Read how the Lord turned her heart toward education and guided her steps across continents to PCC.



I was raised in a Christian family, which is a little unusual because Christianity is not allowed in China. But it was not until I received a Christian education abroad in high school that I started having a personal relationship with God. Away from my parents and friends, loneliness quickly devoured me. I started to ask God's advice more. My relationship with God grew closer every day. I am glad that God never gave up on me and that He never will.

The first time I heard about Pensacola Christian College was from my pastor who was my high school administrator at the time. For my entire senior year, my heart debated where to attend college. A voice in my heart told me, 'You should go to PCC, and you know that's where God wants you to be.'

In my rebellion, I applied to some other universities, but my heart was not peaceful at all. The struggle was real. I worried about my future job, accreditation, and paying tuition. I still remember the moment when I told my parents that I would go to PCC, and God would take care of the rest. My peace came back right at the second when I finished my sentence.

When I first came to PCC, I was impressed by how friendly everyone was.

You can never understand how nervous and uncomfortable an international student can be in the beginning of the school year. Everything was so new. I still remember how one of my teachers pronounced my last name correctly because he had been to China. I could ask any of my teachers questions without feeling embarrassed, and they were always available. My teachers not only equipped me for my future career but also defined the meaning of being a good teacher.

I want to be an ESL teacher because language is the door to the gospel. I

"My teachers not only equipped me for my future career but also defined the meaning of being a good teacher."

chose to double major in English and math. Many people think that math has nothing to do with God's Word. Actually, math also shows the greatness and

wisdom of our God. Graduating with a double major will give me more opportunities.

I am planning to pursue my master's degree at PCC after I graduate. I want to have a further understanding of my current field, and I hope I can go to different places in China to teach ESL after I finish my master's. As long as I equip myself well, God can use me anytime and anywhere He wants. No other god is real like mine. Isn't God's plan always better than ours?" ■

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

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

PCC Staff

- Academic Customer Service • Auto/Truck Mechanic • Construction • Digital Designer
- Dining Services Supervisor • Electrician • Fire Alarm Technician • HVAC Technician
- Illustrator • Kitchen Appliance Repair Technician • Locksmith • Network Technician
- Office Assistant • Office Proofer • Online Learning Clerk • Painter • Production Artist
- Scenic Artist • Senior Programmer • Textbook Curriculum Writer • Web Programmer

Abeka

- Print Shop Processes Engineer • Textbook Field Representative (Midwest/Northeast States)

Send résumé with short testimonial to Employee Services,
P.O. Box 17023, Pensacola, FL 32522-7023, U.S.A.
EmployeeServices@pcci.edu

Christmas Tidings Songs to Celebrate the Season



Jesus is Born • Christmas Tidings Medley
Tidings of Joy • O Holy Night
This Is What the Story's All About
Candlelight Carol • and more

Rejoice

Listen to samples and download at
RejoiceMusic.com/Christmas

Scholarship Fund Giving

PCC gratefully acknowledges the following generous donation to the Scholarship Fund:

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Wilson

Visit pcci.edu/Donate for information about the Scholarship Fund.

Planned Giving

It is often difficult to make a large donation during one's lifetime, yet many would like to make a significant contribution to PCC. You may consider a bequest to Pensacola Christian College.

Visit pcci.edu/PlannedGiving for information about estate planning. For information about both the Scholarship Fund and Planned Giving, call 850-478-8496, ext. 2327.

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE®

P.O. BOX 18000

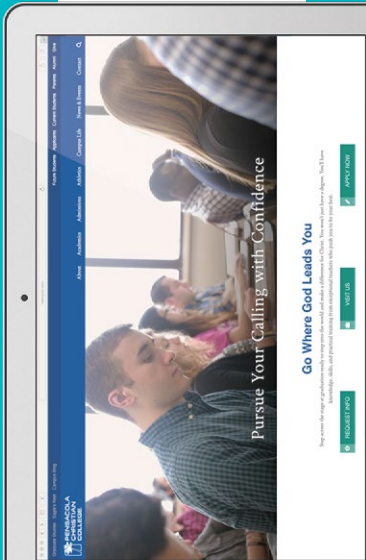
PENSACOLA, FL 32523-9160

U.S.A.

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PENSACOLA, FL
PERMIT NO. 34

VISIT THE NEW PCCI.EDU

It's never been easier to stay connected with PCC.
Photos • Videos • News • Information



MacBook Air

