

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

UPDATE

Spring 2018 | pcci.edu/Update

A young woman with dark hair in a braid, wearing a white lab coat, stands smiling in front of a modern building at night. The building has many windows, some of which are lit up. The scene is illuminated by warm lights, possibly from the building or streetlights, creating a soft glow on the woman and the building.

STUDENT
Professionals
pg.2 ►

From the **President**

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



At the beginning of the spring semester, we received the wonderful news that PCC's nursing program had been ranked sixth in the state of Florida by RegisteredNursing.org! This ranking improves on our program's twelfth position in 2017. It places PCC ahead of many of the major universities in Florida, a high distinction among the 144 nursing programs in the state.

We praise God for His blessing on the nursing program as He has given us faculty members and students who strive for excellence.

Because of the training they've received in and out of the classroom, our students have proven to be servant leaders during their senior preceptorships in local hospitals (pp. 2-3).

PCC is leading the way in quality, Christian academics. We are also training the next generation to lead the way personally in what God has called them to do. Whether we realize it or not, we are all leaders—from the circle of friends we have to the positions we hold. Being the right kind of leaders is a primary purpose of Pensacola Christian College.

Recently in chapel, I reminded our student body of our goal to prepare them for leadership. The published purpose of the College is as follows:

*Our purpose in both undergraduate and graduate programs is to produce **Christian leaders** who are knowledgeable, articulate, moral, dedicated to excellence, and committed to serving Jesus Christ as they learn to influence the world by applying biblical principles in their chosen field and daily life.*

Leadership is influence. It is our prayer that students and alumni of PCC use biblical principles to influence the world for good.

In order to equip our students to do this, we strive to provide academics, campus life, spiritual development, and leadership opportunities that build real-life leaders.

I am so excited to see what our students and alumni are accomplishing as they begin to lead. God has given them incredible opportunities to be used of Him, and you'll enjoy reading about some of their stories in this edition of the *Update*. ■

**Whether we realize
it or not, we are all
leaders—from the circle
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Connect with Us



STUDENT *Professionals*

A Day in the Life of Senior Nursing Students

From the Lab to Real Life

This spring, the largest senior nursing class in the history of the College—101 students—put their classroom theory to the test during 6-week-long preceptorships in local hospitals.

“The nursing preceptorship is the capstone course for nursing majors,” said Dr. Denise McCollim, Dean of Arts and Sciences. “They shadow a nurse, working full-time. By the end of the six weeks, they are doing everything for their patient.”

At 7 a.m., **Joy Cimpan** (CA) begins her shift in the ICU at a local hospital by checking in with the nurse she shadows. Together they meet with the night-shift nurse for a rundown of their patients’ medical profiles so they know what to expect. “Typically in ICU we have two patients,” Joy says. “There’s



more going on, so you want to devote more time to each patient. There *can* be a normal routine, depending on what happens with your patients on the floor. But that’s also the exciting part of ICU—it’s very different every day.”

As Joy is leaving her shift for the day, **Patrick Fulgueras** (TX) arrives at another local hospital where he works with the night-shift nurse in the Progressive Care Unit (PCU). “Once critically ill patients in ICU start improving, they go to the step-down unit, which is the PCU,” he said. “They need to be monitored more, but they are not critically ill. With the day nurse, we go and meet the patient and get a focused assessment. After that we give meds, and hopefully we can let them sleep because it’s night.”



Student by Day, Nurse by Night

At the end of his 12-hour shift, Patrick returns to his residence hall to sleep. “Burning the candle at both ends can definitely be a struggle, but I’m starting to feel like a real nurse now,” he says. “We’re getting paid with experience, so that’s invaluable to me.”

“Typically you pull about 36 hours per week,” Joy says. “You feel that this is it—this is real-life nursing. It’s kind of different—I’m walking around and everybody’s in class and I’m not. Depending on my schedule, I’m still able to attend some activities on campus.”

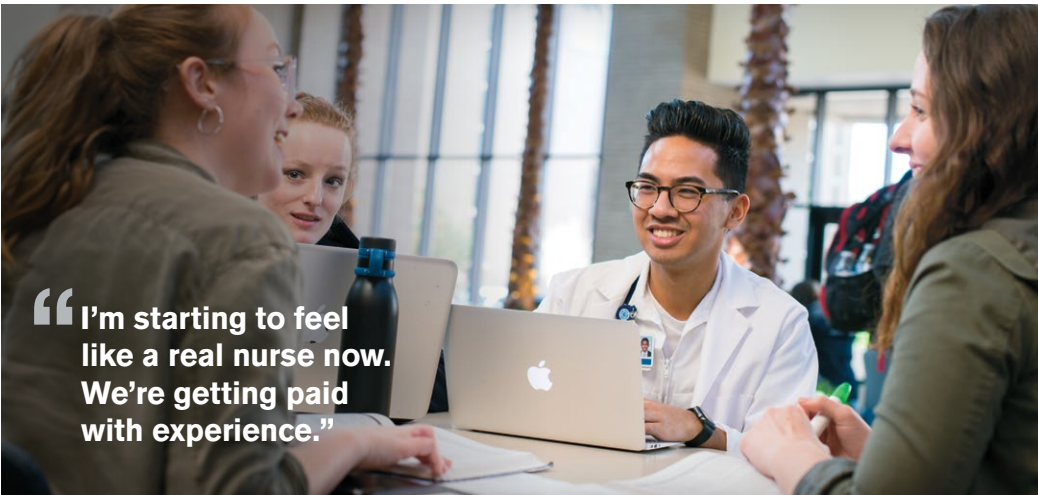




Running on Coffee and Grace

Though nursing students maintain a busy schedule, they still take time out to get coffee with a friend or enjoy a sunset at the beach. “It really comes down to priorities,” Joy reveals. “You want to make good memories, too. If you really prioritize and schedule your time, you still can do both. Overall, I think other students are very understanding—they realize nursing majors have a lot to do.”

“I didn’t start drinking coffee until I came to college!” Patrick jokes. “However, working early mornings and late hours can be the most productive part of my day. It just takes a little bit of sacrifice—you have to give up certain things, but you know it’s worth it.”



“I’m starting to feel like a real nurse now. We’re getting paid with experience.”

More than Just a Job

Both Patrick and Joy view their call to nursing as a ministry. Patrick says, “Interacting with patients in the hospital is my favorite thing about this major. It’s always a new experience, and it’s a privilege to be a part of their lives for a little while. Having the opportunity to leave a positive influence on my patients makes the challenges worth it.”

Joy says, “One lesson I’m learning through preceptorship is how much of

a difference there is between just a nurse and a Christian nurse. You can see how the nurses who are Christians follow all the guidelines to make sure the patient is safe. They spend time with the patient and their family. That’s one thing I love about PCC—the nursing program has really taught us to not be task oriented but to be patient focused. You cannot be patient focused without having a higher perspective. This is a calling from God.” ■

Love the WORD



Bible Conference 2018 took place at a new time during Spring semester.

With a new calendar in place for the 2017–2018 school year, Bible Conference came a few weeks early this year, before midterms, and was—as one guest speaker put it—“a time of refreshment for all.”

“I like the new time for Bible Conference because I was able to enter the meetings more well rested and prepared than in previous years,” said Josh Grover (Sr., OH). “God used this conference to show me more of what He expects from me and that is to be consumed in sharing His way to eternal life.”

Dr. Scott Tewell opened the conference Monday evening with a message from Matthew 7 about those who heard the word of God and “were amazed” yet did nothing with the truths they had been given. Dr. Tewell challenged the audience to do “more than just listen—we must apply God’s truth to life.”

Throughout the three-day conference, students heard practical messages from Dr. Tewell, Dr. Jeff Amsbaugh, Dr. Rick Flanders, and Dr. Jon Lands on the Cross, abiding in Christ, the grace of God, and Noah’s ark. Special music by the men’s choral group One Accord, who released their first CD during the conference, gave a worshipful atmosphere and encouraged hearts to meditate on God’s promises.



Dr. Scott Tewell

*Pastor of Rosedale Baptist Church
Baltimore, Maryland*

“**Bible Conference reminded me of the importance of studying God’s word. How can I expect His direction, His blessings, His promises fulfilled if I am not tapped into the source? I was reminded that I can know truth for all my ways if I use action on my part in going to His Word!**”

—Mel Carrillo (Grad student, CA)

BIBLE CONFERENCE

Facebook Live Comments



This year, live video streaming enabled parents, alumni, and many others to join the services by watching from places like Honduras, Japan, Indonesia, and all across the US. Many were encouraged and challenged through the messages and thrilled to be a part of the conference from afar.

Bible Conference concluded Wednesday evening with messages from Dr. Flanders, who completed his series on abiding in Christ, and Dr. Lands, who preached on "The Depth of the Father's Love" as displayed through the parable of the prodigal son.

Students left the conference feeling spiritually refreshed and encouraged as they began to prepare for midterms in the weeks ahead. ■



Armed for SERVICE

As a teen in high school, Ben Leiby ('01) sat in class, drifting off to a distant world of fighter pilots and airplanes. Little did he know what lay ahead, studying engineering at PCC and building a career in the United States Air Force.

Like many high schoolers in the 1990s, Ben Leiby was asked by his teachers to use protective covers to keep his textbooks clean and reusable. So he made use of the free ones given out by recruiters from the U.S. Air Force. Those simple covers depicting America's finest aerial weaponry in action would influence the rest of his life.

Wanting to study engineering but not sure where, Ben gladly accepted the PCC catalog offered to him by a church member, which was the start of a series of decisions leading him down a path he gladly followed. "It's interesting how God can use a little thing like that to make a big impact in your life," Ben said. "I just see open doors and walk through them."

Those doors appeared to be opening on a career in research after college, but Ben lacked the security clearance to land the job he wanted. So he chose to



join the military for a few years to gain the clearance necessary for his dream job, only to discover that he thoroughly enjoyed the data analysis he was doing in the armed services.

Now as a Rated Personnel Policy Analyst in the Air Force, Ben credits his training at PCC for preparing him for success in his field.

"The mechanical engineering program is steeped in mathematics which is levied tremendously in operations research," he said. "However, PCC aims to train you not only in a discipline but also as a well-rounded student."

Through his many years of assignments and experiences in the service, Ben sees the nonmechanical engineering classes he took at PCC as what separates him from his colleagues. "My peers are all great in analytics and math, but the speech and English programs at PCC provided me with skills that many of my colleagues with techni-

cal degrees appear to be lacking.”

Looking back at his years as an undergraduate, Ben said, “The best training that PCC gave me was being inundated with the college culture. There are very few places where you can go and get an education and be around four thousand other Christians that want God to use them.”

Sixteen years later, the rules that Ben thought were silly in college have become some of the things Ben appreciates the most about his time as a student. At the time, making his bed every morning wasn’t easy, but another military leader gave him a better outlook in hindsight.

“I think Admiral McRaven put it to words best when he gave his 2014 Commencement address at the University of Texas: ‘If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed. If you make your bed every morning, you will have accomplished the first task of the day. It will give you a small sense of pride, and it will encourage you to do another task, and another, and another.’”

To the current mechanical engineering students, Ben echoes that insight: “If you want to make it through mechanical engineering, start off by making your bed. Before you know it, you will have made it through four years of college.”

As Ben works for the Air Force, he looks for the Lord to place him in the location that he needs to be. Because of his constant moving, he and his family have been able to help many churches across the United States.

“I develop mathematical models to make sense of human behavior such as retention influences of fighter pilots. I may switch positions every year or two,

and then move to a new location every three or four years,” he said.

“My wife and I noticed that with all the moves we have to make, we’re kind of like missionaries to wherever the Air Force sends us; but rather than traveling overseas to start churches, we move across the U.S. helping established churches. Our passion is to

help churches with their music ministry. Each place we go, we learn something new and are able to take it with us to other locations to help churches grow in their music ministry. Where a church

has a need, we help lift them up. Where churches are already strong, we grow. It’s a bonus of being in the military.”

Aside from developing models to better understand human behavior, Ben also leads the Air Force’s exit and retention surveys. Over the years, Ben’s commitment to excellence has been mirrored in the many degrees he has earned and the awards he has received.

He holds an M.S. in Operations Research from the Air Force Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. in Project Management from Keller Graduate School of Management.

His outstanding service has also resulted in several awards and commendations.

Small things like a fighter pilot book cover in high school and making his bed every morning in college have helped Ben learn that the best time to serve is daily—living every day to the glory of God, doing his best in His service. And while he couldn’t predict his current path all those years ago, he’s grateful: “All I can say is, God’s been good.” ■

“PCC aims to train you not only in a discipline but also as a well-rounded student.”

MAJOR FOCUS

Ron Van Kirk

Business Manager
Cleveland Baptist Church
History Teacher
Heritage Christian Academy
City Council President
City of Brooklyn, Ohio



When church business manager Ron Van Kirk ('01) decided to work on an M.B.A., he researched over twenty-five institutions. But he was unable to even consider starting the degree because of the cost and time commitment away from his ministry. Then, PCC announced four degrees that could be completed entirely online.

DEGREES *for Life*

Now as Van Kirk takes online classes in the M.B.A. program, he finds not only the cost affordable but the practical application of each course invaluable. "The explanation of the PCC instructors online has been the same high-quality teaching that I received for my undergrad," he said.

"The M.B.A. degree has already proven helpful. I have used much of the information learned to enhance the 'business side' of the ministry for which I work," he said. "I have been able to completely rewrite our policy and procedures manual, the communication between staff has improved dramatically, and the statistical information gained

will prove helpful in monitoring student progress in our Christian school."

Van Kirk is just one example of graduates who are finding ways to fit their degrees around their busy lives, a concept that has been inspirational for PCC and PTS graduate studies.

"Graduate school built for real life" is the goal of each graduate degree program. "The concept behind this is that you can still get the degree you need while doing the things you love," said Noah Frary, a PCC staff member involved in promoting the online degrees.

"Having offerings available on campus and online provides the greatest flexibility for student preferences,"

said **Dr. Raylene Cochran**, Academic Vice President. “Content is the same whether the course is taken online or on campus. Even in their first graduate course, students are getting content that can immediately be applied in their current responsibilities.”

According to Dr. John Reese, PCC faculty member for over 30 years, “These online courses offer much more than a list of readings and a series of critiques and discussion threads to complete. Rather, they represent a combination of strong theoretical background and content complemented by practical class illustrations which allow students to apply their learning in a real-world manner professionally and personally.”

The practicality and flexibility of the courses offered lead to many graduate students earning their master’s degree in as little as two years or less.

For Elisabeth (*Marlowe*) Van Etten ('07), a combination of on campus summer classes and distance learning (now online learning) allowed her to earn an M.S. in English Education in just one year.

“Completing a degree that fast takes commitment and dedication, but it was

so enjoyable, and I learned so much from my concentrated time in each class,” said Van Etten. “I was still in school but could pursue my career at the same time—and graduate debt free! PCC made a master’s totally achievable for me.”

With the new FlexPay option for graduate studies, students can spread their payments out over the course of their degree, an alternative that makes earning an advanced degree budget friendly. Over the course of one class, a student can pay merely \$241 a month (or \$278 per credit hour).

Through online courses, those who cannot leave their jobs for on-campus classes have a new option for gaining their degrees; and on-campus summer terms offer a solution to Christian school teachers and administrators who want the face-to-face

interaction but cannot leave their ministry during the fall and spring semesters. Building relationships whether online or on campus is instrumental to the success of PCC’s graduate studies.

To those considering PCC for an advanced degree, Van Kirk says, “The focus on Christ is unparalleled. The instruction is excellent. The price is by far the most affordable that you will find—Do it!” ■

“The focus on Christ is unparalleled. The instruction is excellent. The price is by far the most affordable.”



Built for Real Life

Four graduate and seminary master’s programs can be completed entirely online:

Business Administration • Educational Leadership • Bible Exposition • Ministry

pcci.edu/LearnOnline

► Teaching Assistant Shelby Pearson



Teachers in the Making

Education majors gain confidence through practical training that culminates in a senior teaching internship.

Little pairs of eyes follow Kristie Rucker (15) around her small, brightly decorated classroom in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Handcrafted bulletin boards around the room reflect concepts her K3 and K4 students are learning.

Though teaching in another culture has its challenges—“My students had the biggest struggle with keeping their shoes on because they are used to playing barefoot!”—it also has its rewards. One K4 student came close to being expelled during those first few weeks, but Kristie persevered. “My education classes at PCC always stressed heart change, not just behavior change. By keeping that as my focus, I had the privilege to lead him to the Lord at the end of the school year,” she said.

Before Kristie boarded a plane to teach overseas, she stood in front of a classroom full of students at Pensacola Christian Academy (PCA) to begin her senior teaching internship. Like other teaching assistants (TAs) before her, Kristie worked alongside veteran teachers and principals, gleaning from their years of experience.

Chair of the Education Department Eric Bryant said, “The internship allows teaching assistants to pick up more and more classroom responsibilities as the weeks of their internship progress until eventually they are totally responsible for the classroom on their own.”

Senior education majors don’t just get up in front of a class and wing it during internship though. Secondary Intern Director Rick Enders said, “TAs will have spent hundreds of hours in preparing lessons, and they will have developed skills in interpersonal relationships with administrators, faculty, and students which will give them the confidence needed going into their first year of teaching.”

Shelby Pearson (TN), a senior English education major with a second teaching field in history, completed her internship this past fall. “The education program definitely prepared me for my internship both academically and, more importantly, spiritually,” she said. “Now I feel equipped to bring really smooth biblical integration through history, English, and even grammar.” ■



Translation Conversation

Two months before the Campus Church Missions Conference this fall, a Bible translation group was formed on campus with five members. Prompted by a desire to help those interested in learning about Bible translation, Jenn Scarfi, along with Jeff Dempsey, founded the group to answer the myriad of questions Jenn once faced.

“I spent four years on the mission field doing Bible translation before coming to PCC to get a master’s in Biblical Languages,” said Scarfi. “Several students, when they heard that I am a Bible translator, asked me how one goes about becoming one.”

After she and fellow grad student Jeff Dempsey (’17) realized the tremendous need to explain Bible translation, they started “Translation Conversation.” Once a month, the group meets to discuss general topics and share needs.

During the 2017 Missions Conference, the club welcomed missionaries Dr. Bill Patterson and Dr. Ken Fielder to guest speak, with over 40 students in attendance.

“Bible translation is vital to the work of evangelism and church planting in communities without the gospel in their native language,” said Scarfi. “We hope that through this club more students will become Bible translators or will know how better to pray for and be a blessing to Bible translators.” ■

Upcoming Events

College Days

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

Apr. 5-7 • Apr. 19-21

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.

PCC Commencement

for family and friends of graduating students

May 11

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

Teen Extreme Youth Camp

for grades 7-12, including class of 2018 graduates

June 11-15 • June 18-22 • June 25-29

July 9-13 • July 16-20

(850) 969-1555

TeenExtremeCamp.com

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Seminary/Graduate Summer Sessions

Challenging studies to strengthen your ministry or career foundation

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1-877-PTS-GRAD (1-877-787-4723)

pcci.edu/GraduateStudies

Summer Camps

for grades 9-12, including class of 2018 graduates

June 25-Aug. 3

(850) 969-1690

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Campus Post

Stories from Students

Mind vs. Heart

When **Zeth Hicks** (Sr., TN) looked at his future, he imagined himself becoming a successful psychologist with a university degree. But when God looked at Zeth's life, He saw something different. Read how the Lord changed his mind to attend PCC, and then changed his heart for future ministry.



As far as I can remember, I always felt as if God wanted me to be a preacher. It was something that I desired but that scared me to death. I had an intense fear of being in front of people. That fear led me to run from what I knew God wanted me to do.

I had the privilege of attending a small Christian school, and every year, once I was in junior high, Proclaim teams would come to our chapel services and present PCC to us. At first, I did not want to consider it as an option; in fact, I once said that I would never go to PCC.

But halfway through my senior year of high school, my parents and I were discussing where I should go to college. I had decided that I wanted to be a psychologist. As we were talking about college one night, I was thinking to myself, 'What about PCC?' But I didn't want to come out and say it. Not a minute later, my dad said, 'What about Pensacola Christian College? Have you considered going there?'

We planned a trip for College Days, and from the minute we drove on campus, everything changed for me. It felt indescribably like home. I will never forget visiting chapel and hearing the laughter as Dr. Shoemaker joked about things that I did not understand—I wanted to understand! I watched as the hordes of people left the Crowne Centre and made their way to their various locations—I wanted to be among them. I wanted to

have somewhere to be and something to do. I realized then that I wanted to be in college and that I wanted to be at PCC.

I came to college as a biology major so that I could get a scientific background that was rooted in the Bible and a proper view of Creation. From there, I planned to transfer and study psychology at a university. Thankfully, the Lord began working on me immediately during my first semester freshman year.

From chapel speakers to Bible classes to good friends, God started softening my heart to follow His will. Pastor McBride said something in one of his sermons that I will never forget. It changed my viewpoint, and I have since adopted it as a way of making decisions. The statement went something like this:

Many times as Christians we spend too much time saying, 'Lord, I am not going to go unless You make me' when we should be saying, 'Lord, I am going to go until You stop me.'

The pastoral ministries major is what you make of it. PCC and Campus Church provide many different opportunities for refining practical skills as well as practicing general service to people. The teachers do an excellent job of presenting the facts biblically. The Lord has changed me so much since coming to college. He's helped me to grow in maturity and dependence on Him. After graduation, I plan to earn my M.Div. at PTS." ■

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 • Computer Science • Graphic Design • Marketing • Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering • Nursing • Office Administration • Physical Education • Studio Art

PCC Staff

- Auto/Truck Mechanic • Computer Technician • Construction • Customer Service
- Digital Designer • Electrician • Fire Alarm Technician • HVAC Technician
- Kitchen Appliance Repair Technician • Network Technician • Office Assistant • Painter
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Scholarship Fund Giving

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

Peggy Gonshor

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Brown

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.

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