

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE *UPDATE*

Spring 2019 | pcci.edu/Update



putting
COLLEGE
within reach pg.2▶

From the **President**

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



In 1 Corinthians, Paul writes about the nature of ministry:

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God" (1 Cor. 3:6–9a).

Paul's words remind us that all ministry is labor. And in any kind of labor, we experience both good days and difficult, successes and hardships. With a multi-faceted ministry such as this, the day-to-day operations are complex. It's not as simple as turning on the lights each morning and instructing students. Like all ministry, a great deal of intentional effort is required to not only maintain what God has given us stewardship of, but also to grow and improve it.

That's why I'm grateful that Paul's message reminds us that in ministry, we have the blessing of co-laborers. Each member of the body of Christ shares in the responsibility by using his or her gifts. While some plant, others water.

Over the past year, our faculty and staff have shown a singlemindedness in their service despite work-

ing in vastly different areas and roles within the ministry. Some have shown an exceptional commitment to service by going beyond their "job description" and meeting needs as they arise or by offering ideas for improvement. On an organizational level, we've been sharing their stories each week to highlight their efforts and promote a spirit of gratefulness and unity among the team.

Along the way, God has been gracious to show instances of affirmation that our labor has not gone unnoticed. It may come in the form of a stack of notes from students expressing thanks or Facebook comments from alumni sharing appreciation for positive changes they've seen while visiting campus. One recent affirmation came in the form of cheers and applause when I shared in chapel that Chick-fil-A will start being served in the Palms Grille this fall (something students have—enthusiastically—expressed their desire for).

While these responses to the efforts of our labor excite me, I am reminded of a biblical truth. We can only attest, as Paul did, that it is God's providential increase that produces any results from our feeble efforts. Only by building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ will our work be able to abide and receive His reward. ■

CONTENTS

FEATURE

The PCC Value

02

HAPPENINGS

Forums & Seminars

04

SPOTLIGHT

Stepping Up in Ministry

06

MAJOR FOCUS

Visual Arts Program

08

HIGHLIGHTS

Bible Conference Highlights

10

New Cybersecurity Program

11

CONNECTIONS

Stepping Stones to Home

12

Employment Opportunities

13



Connect with Us





The PCC **VALUE** Putting College within Reach

When asked why they chose PCC, students—and parents—agree: it's because of the majors offered, the firm stand on the Bible, and the affordable prices.

"PCC does an amazing job keeping their rates as affordable as they possibly can, and we've always appreciated that," said James and Louise Bryant, whose daughter graduated in May 2018. "We were confident in sending our daughter to a good Christian school—one that also wouldn't hurt our pocket."

God's Provision

President Troy Shoemaker says that the College's effort to keep the cost down is intentional—and the direct result of God's blessing. "PCC's heartbeat has historically been to invest in its students. We don't increase tuition rates at the percentage that other institutions

do," he said. "Over the years, the Lord has given the College the means to keep costs low."

Cost vs. Value

When a study was done to assess what a PCC education would cost, the results show that while a PCC education costs \$21,650 per year, the College charges only \$9,556 per year. "What this means is that, regardless of whether or not a student receives financial aid through a scholarship or loan, every student receives the benefit of a reduced cost automatically," Dr. Shoemaker said.

Work Assistance

Qualified students with financial needs can also enroll in the Work Assistance Program. Job consideration is based on financial need of the student and work availability at the time they

enroll in the program. “The on-campus work program provides an avenue for students to be able to assist in paying their school bill,” said Andrea Hassell, Student Employment Director. “Students can work anywhere from 8 to 20 hours per week, and their earnings are directly applied to their school bill. It is convenient for students to be able to work on campus, especially for those that don’t have cars. Students also have the opportunity to stay and work 40 hours per week all summer, which builds a significant credit on their school bill heading into the fall semester.”

Another way students can pay their way is by applying for the Contract Work Program after attending PCC for at least one semester. With this program, qualified residence hall students would take 5 credit hours while working 35 hours a week for two semesters. They would also work 40 hours a week during the summer, during which they receive a one-week vacation and a two-week vacation during Christmas break.

Rather than completing a bachelor’s degree in four years, the contract program will extend the bachelor’s to about five years because credit hours would be limited for two semesters, but the Contract Work Program allows for students to potentially graduate with little to no debt.

“My parents and I are very grateful for the affordability of PCC,” said Hannah Hall (*Fr., CO*), a contract work student. “I pay my own way through college, and my parents are glad that there is a college with a great education available that is also affordable for their daughter.”

Scholarships

In addition to benefiting from the low cost, qualifying students can also apply for scholarships offered through the College.

“I feel most blessed by the price because it gives a valuable life lesson to my kids,” said Yenneke Robinson, whose sons Micah (*Sr., AR*) and Philip (*So., AR*) are enrolled in the work program and qualify for the Armed Services Scholarship. “The ability to take responsibility for paying for [their] own education gives an invaluable lesson in financial responsibility, which is a very hard lesson to teach.”

Students at PCC are able to enjoy the affordable prices and have the opportunity to use student work programs available to them. Philip Robinson said, “Because of the work program, I am well on my way to graduating completely debt-free, which is something that not many students going to other colleges can say.” ■

77%
of PCC alumni
graduate debt-free.
(average percentage, as
reported in alumni surveys)

RESOURCES WITHIN REACH

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available to make PCC even more affordable.

pcci.edu/Scholarships

Work Assistance

Students can earn \$1,775–\$4,440 each year through on-campus employment.

pcci.edu/Work

Fourth Year Free

Qualified applicants for fall 2019 can save thousands on a PCC education.

pcci.edu/4thYearFree

HAPPENINGS

► Former Secret Service agent Michael Goehring



Widening the SCOPE

Through Forums & Seminars

Curious sophomores and collected seniors gathered in MacKenzie Great Hall. Small groups waited on fellow classmates while others walked in to find their seats for the presentation. After an opening prayer, the lights dimmed to show the illuminated projector screen at the front of the room where Keith Johnson, Director of Wetland Sciences, Inc., took the stage.

“Don’t worry; there is a light at the end of the tunnel,” he joked. “You can find a job in your field! I’m proof of that.”

Johnson, who spoke at PCC’s Science Forum about the conservation of endangered beach mice, was one of many professionals who gave presentations about their specialized fields.

Every semester, students have the opportunity to attend forums or seminars to listen to a focused presentation and ask the speaker about his or her career. Although presentations are catered to specific academic programs, any students interested in the topics being discussed are welcome to attend.

“The forums expose students to professionals who are employed in our academic fields of study,” said Dr. Joel Porcher, Chair of the Engineering and Computer Science department. “Students can interact briefly with these practitioners by asking questions after the presentation.”

During the College Commerce Association meeting, Michael Morette, president of Morette Company and general





◀ Speaking to pre-med students, Kevin Schopmeyer, M.D., said, “At the heart of family medicine is caring for the individual person and the family. The best positive word to describe it is *altruistic*—doing good for the sake of good.”

beforehand. I think that kind of helped me realize that I should be more content finding something a little smaller at first if it'll help me get towards my goal in the end.”

These presentations by professionals also allow for students to begin making connections in their fields of interest. Dr. Donna Marion, Dean of Professional Studies, expressed that desire for her students. “I would love for the students to develop networking opportunities with the speakers as well as learn what they can be doing even now while they are a student to prepare for their careers,” she said.

Katie Grudzinski (So., MN) attended the Education Seminar where Dr. Rick Enders explained how having a good parent-teacher relationship works to effectively teach and correct the student. “I took away a lot of good help, and I understand the parents better and how to become better partners,” she said. “This will help me prepare myself for teaching later on in the future, and to understand and work on it now rather than later.”

The forums and seminars at PCC are tools that show students how vast their employment opportunities are after graduation, while also providing tips for achieving their own goals.

Dr. Marion explained the importance of these presentations best. “Students are expanding their knowledge any time they hear a professional speak, whether they are interested in that particular career field or not,” she said. “If the students desire to be successful in their fields, they need to develop the mindset of continuously learning.” ■

contractor for PCC's Rice Tower currently being constructed, covered the importance of good leadership. Kevin Schopmeyer, M.D., a 1998 alumnus, spoke at the Pre-Med Forum, giving insights on how to prepare for medical school and sharing how he began working as a family doctor at Baptist Hospital in Pensacola.

At the Criminal Justice Forum, Brandon Araujo (Sr., VA) heard former Secret Service agent Michael Goehring explain the requirements of working in the Secret Service and gave advice about getting involved in law enforcement. “I think [the forum] gave me a better understanding of what I should be working on now while I'm in college,” Brandon said. “Not just specifically my studies, or certain things, but preparing myself mentally for being in a workforce where you have to be constantly vigilant—and just train myself to be more aware of what's going on around me,” he said. “He said that it is good to try to get some experience



STEPPING UP *in Ministry*

In the same church he grew up attending, Bible grad Corey Knopf trains teenagers to be an example of the believers by stepping up and serving.

Each week, Corey Knopf (*Bible*, '09) opens his Bible and looks out at a crowd of teenagers sitting in chairs or walking over from the beloved carpet ball table. On the wall to his right hang four posters that say “Step Up,” “Submit,” “Commit,” “Move.” As youth pastor of the First Baptist Church in Milford, Ohio, Corey has sought to do just that—stepping up to serve in the same ministry he grew up in, now helping train teenagers to love Christ just as he was taught.

With approximately seventy to eighty teens coming to Sunday morning Bible study and the midweek youth service, Corey has the privilege to share God’s Word with the next generation of Christian leaders.

But Corey’s vision extends past the walls of the youth room; through

overseeing a class called The POINT for teen bus riders, visiting teens and their families at home, and mentoring in two local public schools, Corey has seen his youth group grow in amazing ways. “We have teens who come on our bus because they don’t have family who come to church,” Corey said. “It is awesome to see young people come to church all on their own.”

Corey wants his teens to have a vision to reach their community with the gospel as well. Through free events such as a youth car wash, teenagers have had the opportunity to serve the community and invite visitors to church. “While we were washing cars, we gave the people we met water bottles, cookies, wristbands, and an invitation to our church,” Corey said. “The people in the community were shocked when

we told them we were not taking any money and that we just wanted them to know that there was a church in the community that cared about them. It was awesome!”

Throughout the year, the youth group also hosts mini-carnivals at apartment complexes where the youth group gives out snow cones, sets up a bounce house, and organizes games for kids. “This is always well received, and it is a great way to build relationships in our area,” Corey said.

Even youth activities such as the recent Color War or the annual Christmas party give the teens a chance to grow in their faith. Not only do the activities provide important fellowship for the teens and youth group leaders, but they also open doors for the teens to meet or bring visitors, who can then hear the gospel.

During the summers, Corey takes teens either on a missions trip, to a youth conference, or to a youth camp, depending on the year. Recently, Corey and other youth leaders took a group of thirty-five teens to Bearing Precious Seed in El Paso, Texas, to help assemble John/Romans that would be distributed in Juarez, Mexico.

“God is doing some incredible work in our youth group right now,” Corey said, thinking back to this past year at youth camp, where a few of his teens accepted Christ as Savior or gained assurance of their salvation. “I just had the privilege last week of baptizing one of the young men who got saved at camp,” Corey added. “[I] never get over seeing people get saved. That is one of my absolute favorite things about ministry.”

But ministry wasn’t always what Corey wanted to do. When he graduated from high school and applied at PCC, Corey listed chemistry as his major. He planned to return to Cincinnati, Ohio, to

work as a research chemist for Proctor & Gamble. It wasn’t until his sophomore year that he began sensing God’s work in his heart about full-time ministry.

“This call spanned many weeks,” Corey said. “I eventually surrendered to God that I would serve in ministry with my life. I changed my major from chemistry to Bible going into my junior year of college, and I couldn’t be more thankful for that leading of God in my life.”

Corey explained that during these in-between weeks of waiting, he remembers telling some teachers about the switch. “I can remember specific conversations with them that greatly encouraged me at the time to follow God’s leading. I’m still grateful for these men who took time to invest in me as an individual person.”

Once in the Bible program, Corey began studying Greek and taking more in-depth Bible courses. “I am very thankful for my exposure to Biblical languages through the two years of Greek I took in my undergraduate program,” he said. “It has helped me so many times in studying for lessons and sermons.”

Corey also has a vision to help others working with teens. Each November, First Baptist Church hosts the Loving and Leading Conference, designed to encourage and assist those serving in ministry. The past few years, Corey has taught various classes for this conference that included topics from dealing with leadership insecurity to tips on working with a church intern. “It’s an awesome opportunity because I get to share what I’ve experienced in ministry and try to help someone else as they navigate similar situations.”

“Ministry has its unique challenges,” Corey admitted, “but it’s refreshing and encouraging to know that the time and energy put in are all for the ultimate cause of bringing glory to Jesus.” ■



The Visual Arts program enables students to take their artistic passions and create a rewarding career.

Through the ages, artists have drawn, painted, and chiseled their way into history books. Their work has, in turn, inspired and educated new generations of creators.

As art techniques have continually been developed and refined, many artists look to higher education to help expand their knowledge of art and further develop their skills. This is demonstrated each year as a growing number of students enter PCC's Visual Arts program.

Whether studying Graphic Design or Studio Art, students have the opportunity to refine their abilities and prepare for a variety of creative fields. Classes such as History of Art develop a foundational and important appreciation for art's cultural value, while hands-on classes such as Principles of Drawing and Digital Graphics help students become proficient in necessary skills. Additionally,

electives and upper-level courses allow students to pursue their interests and produce advanced work.

"We're in the top three art schools and departments in the United States with some of these national awards that are recognized in art magazines," said Brian Jekel, artist in residence and visual arts faculty. "The Lord brings us students who thrive and have gotten not only local and regional awards, but national awards."

David O'Hara ('08), who graduated with a double major in Studio Art and



Graphic Design, went on to receive several American Advertising Awards including 2 gold, 4 silver, and 2 bronze awards. More rewarding than these achievements is the work he does every day as the Senior Product Design Lead

at Axon Enterprise, Inc. “Our company’s mission is two-part: to protect life and to protect truth,” David said. “For me, waking up each day and being a part of this mission is hugely rewarding.”

After a vibrant career path designing for both local design agencies and tech giants like Microsoft, David’s path has led him to Axon, a leading producer of equipment used by police agencies such as Tasers, body cameras, and in-car systems.

“The education I received while at PCC helped prepare me with foundational principles of design. This empowered me to build upon and ultimately make a complete career change into an area of design that didn’t even exist at the time of my education,” he said.

Alumni of the Visual Arts program have found careers building their own full-service design agencies, freelancing for corporations in tech hotspots, or expanding the reach of ministries like Sight and Sound Theaters and the Creation Museum.

Emily Kurek (’17) is putting her graphic design and advertising skills to good use at Edelman, the world’s largest public relations firm, while spouses Adam and Andrea Clague (’06, M.F.A. ’09) are garnering attention in the studio art field, winning awards such as Best of Show in Legacy Gallery’s Fine Art Competition (Andrea) and an Award of Excellence in

the Oil Painters of America Salon Show (Adam).

Alumni who are pursuing further education are also finding ways to use their God-given abilities.

Natti Guest (Grad., TX) began pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Studio Art after college. Since then, she has had the opportunity to help design PCC’s *Summit* yearbook, work for Abeka Publishing, and minister abroad by illustrating Christian school curriculum in Brazil.

“In Brazil, I digitally illustrated pictures for the curriculum using Photoshop to paint the pictures they needed,” Natti said. “I loved the opportunity to use art to serve Christ, share the gospel, and impact others. It is my desire to use art for missions and the ministry, so serving in Brazil was very fulfilling.”

Aside from teaching the techniques of art, PCC’s Visual Arts program teaches students to use their talents to glorify God.

“What we teach is that our Creator God designed the world using what I call

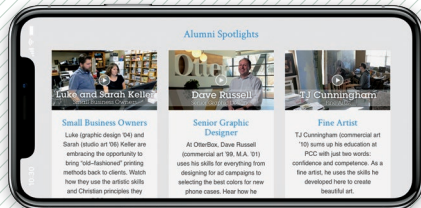


‘Classical Ideals,’ from which we can discover the elements and principles of art,” said **Joe Digangi**, visual arts faculty. “He masterfully created the

world, and we should strive for that same mastery in our own creations. PCC has a biblical perspective that God has given each of us a special measure of talent and ability. Those, in turn, should be used to honor and glorify Him, to draw people and attention to Him instead of to ourselves.”

Whether alumni pursue a job in a church, large agency, self-owned business, or a completely new developing field, they know what it means to use their art to serve. ■

Alumni in Action



See how Visual Arts grads have turned their passions into careers—including small business ownership, corporate product design, and fine art painting.

pcci.edu/VAGrads



God Focused: Bible Conference 2019

In February, President Troy Shoemaker welcomed friends, family, and guests from Pensacola and around the world to the 45th annual Bible Conference.

Attendees from on campus and in the community gathered in the Crowne Centre, while viewers from places such as Washington, Missouri, Colorado, and Hawaii watched via Livestream and Facebook Live.

Services directed hearts toward God through worshipful music, including selections from the new Rejoice Singers CD *One Day*, followed by prayer and messages from men of God.

Dr. Shane Lewis ('92) from Somerville Baptist Church in Alabama preached the first sermon of the Conference, speaking about God's love in a message titled "He Loves Me, He Loves Me, He Loves Me."

"There is never a time that my God does not love me," Dr. Lewis opened. "God's love is not conditional based on our love for Him."

After a brief break between services, Dr. Raymond Barber, who has served in ministries for over sixty years, reminded

listeners that God has a plan for every life.

"God has a robe of righteousness for you to wear," Dr. Barber said. "God is not going to alter His robe to fit you. He's going to alter you to fit His robe."

The next day, Dr. Marc Monte ('07, *M.Min*) of Faith Baptist Church in Indiana and Dr. Johnny Pope of Christchurch Baptist Fellowship in Texas gave their first messages of the conference. Dr. Monte started a miniseries about the Passion Week of Christ, which he continued throughout the conference, while Dr. Pope followed with a message about the will of God.

Concluding Wednesday, the Conference provided time away from everyday life, giving many the opportunity to be immersed in God's Word and moved by His work in their lives.

"One of the things I take away from every year is how refreshing Bible Conference is," said Madison Rafael (*Sr., NC*). "I want to heat up my life's sunbeam to shine brighter for the Lord, and I can honestly say that Bible Conference has continually renewed that purpose. ■



Announcing New Cybersecurity Program

"As our nation and world places greater priority on strengthening cybersecurity, higher education must produce skilled



and capable cybersecurity professionals, able to defend networks and infrastructure," said **Dr. Michael Geary**, assistant chair of PCC's Engineering and

Computer Science department.

To help meet this need, PCC will offer a cybersecurity concentration beginning fall 2019.

The new program falls under the Computer Information Systems major and aligns with PCC's mission of producing Christian leaders who are knowledgeable, articulate, moral, and dedicated to excellence by training students to have a moral and ethical approach to cybersecurity challenges.

Students will learn from skilled faculty as well as cybersecurity professionals as they prepare to meet the need for Christian professionals in this important and necessary industry.

"The purpose of the cybersecurity concentration is to prepare students in the development, operation, and securing of computing systems capable of operating within today's complex digital world and its continual evaluation of cyber threats," said Dr. Geary.

For more information on this program, visit pcci.edu/CyberSecurity. ■

Upcoming Events

College Days

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

Apr. 3-5

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 10

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

Teen Extreme Youth Camp for grades 7-12, including class of 2018 graduates

June 10-14 • June 17-21 • June 24-28

July 8-12 • July 15-19

(850) 969-1555

TeenExtremeCamp.com

A one-of-a-kind youth camp focusing on spiritual development and offering thrilling extreme sports

Seminary/Graduate Summer Sessions

Challenging studies to strengthen your ministry or career foundation

June 17-Aug. 2

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

pcci.edu/GraduateStudies

Summer Camps for grades 9-12, including class of 2018 graduates

June 24-Aug. 2

(850) 969-1690

YouthOutreachCamps.com

Art • Basketball (Guys/Girls) • Computer Science
Criminal Justice • Drama • Elementary Education
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Music Academy • Nursing • Pre-Medicine
Soccer (Guys) • Volleyball (Girls) • Writing

Connections

Stories from PCC

Stepping Stones to Home

Serving at PCC for 38 years, Brian and Marlene Jekel have seen their lives flourish in doing the work God brought them to—teaching, illustrating and costume designing. Together, they have seen their seven children grow in the Academy and the College, with several even becoming staff at PCC.

After earning degrees in physical education and sports medicine from Southern Minnesota in 1973, a young Brian Jekel hoped to teach and coach football. However, he recognized that too much had changed in public schools in the '60s and '70s, so he decided on a career change to art in 1977.



By his second year studying art in Denver, Brian was asked to help teach a few drawing and painting classes. It was there that he met his would-be wife, an aspiring children's book illustrator named Marlene.

In 1981, a year after they had married, Marlene came across an ad for Pensacola Christian College in *Sword of the Lord* seeking an illustrator. Brian soon began his work as an illustrator with Abeka, and Marlene worked nearby creating advertisements.

After four years, the Jekels moved back to Colorado, but only for five months as they sensed God's leading to return to Pensacola in 1986. "The Lord has brought us here twice now," Brian said.

Marlene, who loved to sew, began working in the costume department, overseeing, designing, and making costumes for the many plays and productions. "She was thrilled about that because that was really more of what she wanted to do," Brian recalled. "She thoroughly loves her work."

Brian began teaching design and painting classes, splitting his time between illustrating and classroom instruction. Now with 40 years of teaching experience, he currently teaches graduate studio and drawing classes and an undergraduate advanced painting class. "It is truly rewarding to see our young, eager art students succeed in creating beautiful and strong artwork that is also God honoring," he said.



While she loves using creativity to design costumes professionally, Marlene noted something else that has impacted her. "The education for our children has been a big benefit," she shared, expressing what she appreciates about serving at PCC. "I love the fact that all seven of our children had a Christian education all the way through college."

After 38 years at PCC, Brian and Marlene have seen how the Lord has blessed them and their entire family. Four of their sons have become part of the ministry, following in their parents' footsteps.

"When we came back, it finally felt like home. Before, it felt like a place to work, to serve the Lord, yes, but it felt more like a job—a stepping stone," Brian said. "When we moved back, it finally felt like home." ■

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

- Computer Science • Cybersecurity • Engineering • Mathematics

PCC Staff

- Electronics Technician • IT Programmer • Photographer • Production Artist
- Retail Supervisor • Video Editor

Abeka

- Textbook Field Representative (IL/IN/KY)

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

EmployeeServices@pcci.edu

For More Ministry Openings
pcci.edu/EmploymentOpportunities

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PCC gratefully acknowledges
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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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