

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE  
*UPDATE*

Winter 2019 | [pcci.edu/Update](http://pcci.edu/Update)



THE  
*Christmas*  
SPIRIT

# *From the* **President**

**Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker** @PresidentPCC



**T**his time of year brings cold weather to the Panhandle, along with warm moments shared among family and friends. Through a host of events, activities, and ministry opportunities in these recent months, I've been reminded how much like a family we are here at PCC.

In October, alumni returned to campus for our annual Alumni Homecoming. Leading up to the event, we encouraged graduates serving on faculty and staff to join us—to simply take a few days to see campus once again through the eyes of a student rather than as an employee. Several expressed amazement at how their perspective changed for the better by attending. For alumni who traveled to join us, it became clear through the tours, meals, and times of fellowship how meaningful the friendships that were made years ago remain important in their lives today.

Later in October, Campus Church hosted its Missions Conference, and we were blessed to hear from missionaries from Honduras, Africa, and many other countries as they labor in God's harvest. Their testimonies reminded me about our larger Christian family across the globe, as our brothers and sisters in Christ minister faithfully for the cause of worldwide evangelism.

In November, Campus Church introduced its annual Christmas Project,

where the church family joins together to support the projects of several missionaries in their work around the world. As part of the project, Campus Church partnered with the PCC student body, rallying together for a special Missions Run in December and raising additional funds for the work of the gospel.

And who can forget the annual Christmas Lights Celebration? Just before Thanksgiving, our PCC family gathered on Varsity Terrace to enjoy an evening of Christmas music as well as the illumination of lights across campus. It's a beloved tradition that reminds us of the family in Bethlehem all those years ago, welcoming the Savior of mankind into the world. May our hearts remain fixed on Jesus this holiday season! ■







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# *Spirit Singers:* **MAKING MUSIC** *for 30 years*

Spirit Singers veterans share what they love most about being part of one of PCC's well-loved choirs.

**I**n 1988, PCC students gathered at Pensacola's Cordova Mall to uplift the community through Christmas music. The group of musicians buzzed with excitement. Many wore bright red or green sweaters and held instruments or stood behind microphones. Undergraduate Randy Teegarden, who now serves on staff in employee development, introduced the songs, as an onlooker captured the moments on tape using a large VHS video recorder.

Among those in the choir were current music faculty Darlyn Cole and Scott Roberts, chair of the Performing Arts Department, while the Symphonic Band included music faculty Greg Soule and Nick Kozar. Dr. Steve Ainsworth, music

education faculty, directed the band, which accompanied the choir and played instrumental pieces.

This wasn't the first time the Symphonic Band had performed holiday music. **Dr. Ainsworth** explained that a few years earlier, needing an outlet to play, the band staged an outdoor concert during the annual Thanksgiving activities. That concert became known as the Sounds of Christmas concert, what many today refer to as Christmas Lights.



Dr. Ainsworth continued, "I thought, 'Let's add a choir.'" And so they did. The Chamber Choir helped for a few years and was the choir that performed





Holiday Lights Concert 1995

at the mall with the band; yet a distinct group—the Spirit Singers—took over in the fall of 1990.

The Christmas Lights Concert continues to be one of the main performances the Spirit Singers are known for. In fact, it was for this very reason that Danielle Gibbs (Sr., TX) auditioned for Spirit Singers as a freshman: “I decided to join Spirit Singers...because I had heard about Christmas Lights from upperclassmen. I love Christmas music!”

**Syneaqua Benboe** (Jr., FL) shared how she also joined the group as a freshman. “I believe music is such a great



ministry, and the music on campus is no exception!” Syneaqua said. “I always wanted to be a part of PCC’s music ministry but never knew how to get involved. When I heard about Spirit Singers a few years ago, I jumped at the opportunity.”

“Spirit Singers has totally influenced my college experience!” Syneaqua said. “I have made friends that I wouldn’t have made otherwise.”

Because Spirit Singers represents a variety of majors and student classifications, members have the chance to connect with students they may not have classes with.

Danielle also shared that being in Spirit Singers became an encouragement to her. “Whenever I was overwhelmed and stressed about life going

into rehearsal, I would come out with a huge smile on my face humming fun Christmas songs!”

In addition to performing during the annual Christmas Lights event, Spirit Singers perform for most Student Body programs. The group has also performed at the Bible Conference picnic, Campus Church, and other local churches as well as for special events. In 2018, Spirit Singers worked with composer Ben Everson to record his song “Don’t You Fear.”

Music faculty Stephen Spilger, the group’s leader, said that one thing he enjoys about working with Spirit Singers is “the realization that I’m part of something much larger. I’m helping to encourage and refresh students campus wide.”



Music faculty Stephen Spilger directs the Spirit Singers in rehearsal.

And it’s true. Whether through Christmas Lights or an encouraging song right before midterms, Spirit Singers continue uplifting PCC’s student body.

“One moment that stuck with me the most was last year—after we sang a song called ‘Be an Example,’ a random girl came up to me at work and gave me a hug,” Syneaqua said. “She explained to me that the Lord used that song to help her with some decisions she needed to make in her Christian walk. I love hearing that the songs we sang touched others.” ■



Through Campus Church's biennial Missions Conference, PCC students were encouraged to deepen their passion for sharing the gospel.

Leading up to this year's Campus Church Missions Conference, the pastoral staff asked for volunteers to make videos portraying this year's theme "For the Cause." Out of the many submissions, the video made by Jenneth Dyck, a graduate assistant at PCC, was chosen to open the conference. The video clearly depicted why sharing the Good News matters—to restore hope to those without.

"As the Church, we have the shared purpose of world evangelism—the Great Commission. We've also been given the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit—the resource to accomplish our purpose," explained Jason Young, church ministries pastor at Campus Church. "It's for this reason, our 2019 Missions Conference

challenged us to commit ourselves to this purpose and answer the question, 'Is there not a cause?'"

This year's keynote speakers were Dr. Steven Maldoff ('95), Southeast Asia Director at Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI) and Rev. Bob Mach ('86, M.A. '15), who has been a missionary with his family in the Ivory Coast for 25 years. Maldoff encouraged listeners to remain sensitive to God's calling and to find ways to serve regardless of their vocation, while Mach reminded them about the reality of God's grace and how a united church best serves communities, locally and internationally.

After each service, missionaries and their families presented their ministries at displays in the Crowne Centre Atrium,



◀ Alumnus Bob Mach, missionary to Ivory Coast, challenges students in chapel to heed Paul's admonition to the Corinthians and tear down strongholds in their Christian walk.

▼ Matt Allen, missionary to Papua New Guinea, answers a student's questions in the Commons Florida Room.



ready to share needs and blessings with students. After the conference's missions-focused chapel services, students could further visit with missionaries in the Commons Florida Room.

Friday night, the Overcomers adult Bible study class, which is taught by Coach Mark Goetsch, hosted the Missionary Kids' Dinner at the St. John Building. There, students enjoyed spending time with the missionaries, some of whom were long-time friends or even family members. "I don't think I had realized how many [missionary kids] went to PCC until that dinner! We each had a chance to stand up and talk about our experiences or about where we were from," said Janise Anderson, a graduate student who grew up in Peru.

On Sunday, the final day of the conference, students from 46 countries bore their nation's flag to the front of the

Crowne Centre as part of the Parade of Nations. Some students wore sashes or international dress in honor of their home country. During the parade, the *Rejoice Choir* sang "Song for the Nations" from the side sections of the main floor.

During the concluding service, Campus Church pastor Jeff Redlin reminded everyone that God uses everyday people. He said, "It doesn't matter the age or stage of life. God uses people that are simply willing and submissive."

After its conclusion, the effects of Missions Conference are still being felt by students. "Hearing the missionaries' updates about the work of the Lord has made me aware that there are still many missionaries that need our support," said Liz Zarrazola (So., CO). "They have made me want to refocus on my own mission field back home." ■





# PURSUING GOD

After years traveling stateside in evangelism, Adrian and Tabitha Burden expanded their ministry to include international outreach.

“Do we want to know Who God is and what He wants us to do?” Evangelist Adrian Burden (’06, M.A. ’08) asked students during a Friday chapel in late September. Walking back and forth across the stage, he then paused behind the lectern.

“As I draw closer, He shows Himself more,” Adrian explained, then shared some of the ways God had shown Himself since 2008, when Adrian first started out in full-time ministry.

After graduating from college and beginning ministry as a full-time evangelist, Adrian found himself with little money to his name on multiple occasions. Yet, whether through meals and gas money or through a trailer and a truck to pull it with, God faithfully provided as the Burdens traveled thousands of miles to serve at churches and camps across the United States.

Although his main focus at first was speaking to teens, Adrian would



drive hundreds of miles to share the gospel, no matter if it was at a children's church service or a church-wide revival. Through all the traveling and tight scheduling, God made Himself known as Jehovah-Jireh for Adrian and his family, and they saw hundreds of people trust Christ as Savior during those beginning years.

"God showed Himself, which meant I loved Him more, which meant I wanted to keep his commandments more," Adrian said. "What steps are you taking to have God show Himself to you?"

One of these life-changing steps for Adrian began six years ago when he and his wife Tabitha ('03, M.A. '05) were once again challenged to obey in faith and watch God provide.

"I was on the mission field literally just to visit, mixing concrete, helping building," Adrian recalled. While he was busy working, a national pastor asked if Adrian could preach. "He had me preach that one night. Before I left, he asked me to come back and preach for a week at his church. That's where overseas ministry began to get ignited in my heart."

That passion for overseas ministry kept growing, and the Burdens soon knew that God wanted them to serve overseas on a more regular basis. So they went back—again and again. Each time the Burdens left Central America, they made plans to return.

At first, Adrian used a translator as he preached. But he and Tabitha knew that in order to minister more effectively to the people there, they would need to learn Spanish. "To have longer-term min-

istry, [we needed to] learn the language and learn it well," Adrian said.

So they took a step of faith: almost three years ago, Adrian and Tabitha, along with their two daughters, Jasmine and Janae, took six months off traveling to churches to attend language school in Texas. For an evangelist, not preaching meant not having a regular income, but once again, God provided and took care of the Burdens' needs.

Following language school, the Burdens began adjusting to what is now their normal routine: a year divided into fourths. From January to March, they serve in Central America, mostly in Honduras. In the summer, Adrian preaches at youth camps. In the spring and fall, they travel to churches for revivals, conferences, and special emphasis days.

The Burdens are thankful for the many ways in which they have seen God working lately. "Recently, the meetings have been an encouragement to pastors," Tabitha said. "That's been really neat to see."

"I love seeing people saved," Adrian added. "Last week, [we saw] kids, adults, teens—all spectrums getting saved." And even if he isn't the one who gets to lead a person to this decision, he is happy to have just one small part in the process.

While visiting PCC, Adrian encouraged students to both know and share the gospel with others as well as to know and follow God's commandments. "God entrusts me with more if I walk out of these doors and keep His commandments," he explained, challenging students to do the same. "Let God show Himself." ■

**Through all the traveling and tight scheduling, God made Himself known as Jehovah-Jireh for Adrian and his family, and they saw hundreds of people trust Christ as Savior during those beginning years.**

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## *Complexity made Simple*

Computer Science grads are using their skills to keep up with the ever-changing advances in software, networking, and cybersecurity.

“Currently, I’m working on a project to transform our backup and disaster recovery strategy to a next generation hybrid cloud solution. Our goal is to enable our 6.6 million gas and electric customers to have access to the services they need during storm and power outages,” said **Thomas Behman** (’09), an IT infrastructure architect at Consumers



Energy, a public utility in Michigan. He designs and implements server and storage infrastructure to support business critical applications, delivers enterprise infrastructure to drive business value and reduce operation costs, and collaborates with IT vendors to explore

new innovative solutions to solve business problems. “I love every aspect of my job. I get to do something new every day,” he said.

Since graduating from PCC, computer science graduates like Thomas have found an endless supply of fields that require their knowledge and skills. As software engineering can be a complex topic, these grads are using their expertise to simplify experiences, strengthen security, and manage computer information systems.

Lauren Conrad (’09), a software engineer at WatchGuard Technologies, leads stand-up meetings with developers and testers, fixes reported bugs, and maintains software products from facial



recognition to network security. “The technical classes that I took helped me learn new languages and techniques, which is something I still do with my daily job, as technology is constantly updating and there is so much more to learn out there,” she said. “Even with all that you learn in college, you will still be learning more as you progress through your career and handle situations that arise. I work on a team, and with every team, there are interpersonal skills required to make the team function, and that can be challenging. Occasionally, I will be assigned a task or bug, and after researching, I still don’t know how to go about it, and that’s when working on an excellent team is advantageous.”

“The Bible classes that I took helped deepen my knowledge of the Scriptures and help me with sharing truths from the Bible with friends,” said Lauren. “Having this strong base has helped me with making right choices like finding a great church in my current area and helping out in a local ministry.”

Troy Arwine (’99) is a principal cybersecurity consultant for Microsoft. He meets with customers, helps to design and deploy highly secure systems, jointly plans cybersecurity defenses, and occasionally assists customers with cybersecurity incident responses. “Technology always changes faster than you can train while working full-time,” he said. “Often, you have to just continually learn on the job. There are always people with bad intentions attacking people doing the right thing. It is a privilege to be a part of a team that prevents bad things from happening or helping

them recover from a malicious attack,” he said. “PCC taught me to pay attention to small details, and to always work with integrity.”

Mike Carruthers (’09) is the IT director of First Baptist Church in Milford, Ohio. He co-created and maintains an interactive church missionary touch screen software and hardware setup. Mike’s glad for the opportunity to assist a church and its ministries with having a local and global influence for Christ. “There are over 100 computers on our property and 70+ users of varying technological skills on campus every day. Being able to understand their issues and communicate with them in order to solve their issue is an integral part of my job,” he said. “My studies at PCC prepared me mostly with problem solving and analytical skills to help me with my current employment. I certainly never thought I’d be doing what I’m doing for a church and ministries such as this. The Lord truly has blessed me and my family.”

The computer science program combines current practices in the field with practical skills allowing graduates to analyze problems, design solutions, and write software based on that design. Classes provide a well-rounded understanding of large-scale software development, a strong background in theoretical and mathematical concepts in a team-based environment, and a solid foundation in ethical practices. Other courses focus on networks, databases, and e-business, allowing graduates to better understand the variety of perspectives in the computer field. ■

“**The program trained me to apply critical thinking in every IT discipline that I encounter. Every success I have experienced in my life and career is a direct result of God’s grace in my life.**” —Thomas Behman

## HIGHLIGHTS



## Gathered: Alumni Homecoming 2019

In mid-October, the Academic Center mall hummed with activity as staff welcomed alumni and their families to campus. Although they could check in throughout the following days, several alumni arrived on Thursday to participate in as many homecoming activities as possible.

The weekend brought a variety of events, providing time to reminisce with old friends while also making new ones. During the Concert on the Green, which took place in the Dale Horton Auditorium because of rainy weather, guests along with students and staff enjoyed the PCCymphony's energetic concert, *Sounds of Adventure*.

After spending time at the Sports Center, grabbing a coffee from the Common Grounds, and visiting The Palms, alumni went to a reception on Friday night in MacKenzie Great Hall where they ate and fellowshiped with others while their children played with virtual reality headsets.

"Combine fun memories, scrumptious food, and exciting events—and you've got an amazing reunion!" said Kari Wainwright ('99).

On Saturday, activities included a dolphin cruise, a trip to the Naval Air Museum, planetarium shows, and brunch and dinner with President and Mrs. Shoemaker. At the dinner, alumni appreciated hearing a brief word from Dr. Jim Schettler, former pastor of Campus Church, who had returned to speak at Lois Allen's homegoing service.

Alumni like Sharon Rademacher ('04, M.B.A. '08) enjoyed their time on campus, catching the spirit of student life once again. "I ran into people I graduated with that I am Facebook friends with, but when we reconnected here, we just picked right back up where we left off."

"It was great to be back! I felt 20 years old again, like walking around campus was the most natural thing in the world," said Megan Maida ('02). "I cried when we walked into Bradley Tower because nostalgia is a big emotional trigger for me. This trip was good for my soul! I knew we would have fun, but it surprised me how wonderful it was!"

Even after all this time, alumni discovered their way around their alma mater once again, making new memories with old friends. ■



## In Memoriam of Mrs. Lois Allen



Mrs. Lois Allen went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, October 15. During her 57 years of service, she was known for her faithful dedication, tireless energy, strong work ethic, care for others, and heart for evangelism. Besides PCC's founders, no one has served longer in the ministries of Pensacola Christian than Mrs. Allen. The PCC family will greatly miss her. ■



## Project Sycamore: Senior Class Outreach

For their class project, PCC seniors coordinated donations for Safe Harbor Pregnancy Medical Center. From baby blankets and diapers to baby food and formula, the senior class provided about a month's worth of supplies for 10–15 moms at the center.

The project's theme is taken from Luke 19:4 where Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus. Senior class chaplain Cory Woodard (TN) was thrilled for the great turnout. "We know that even the mighty sycamore tree began as just a seed, but it became a means by which Zacchaeus could see Christ," he explained. "At this moment, more students are planning to donate on their own. Overall, Project Sycamore was a seed that I believe could grow into something much bigger." ■

## Upcoming Events

### PCC Spring Semester Opening Weekend for family and friends of students

**January 18–20**

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

### Bible Conference Uplifting Bible Preaching

**February 17–19**

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

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

**February 24–25**

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

### PCC Career Fair for organizations and businesses seeking candidates from among PCC students

**February 27**

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

### Enrichment Retreat a refreshing getaway for pastors and ministry leaders

**March 10–12**

(850) 478-8496, ext. 2828  
[EnrichmentRetreat.com](http://EnrichmentRetreat.com)

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

**Mar. 18–20 • Apr. 1–3**

1-800-PCC-INFO (1-800-722-4636)  
[pcc.edu/CollegeDays](http://pcc.edu/CollegeDays)

Bring a group of young people to experience PCC college life and participate in exciting activities and classes.

# Connections

## Stories from PCC

### *Exalting the Lord Together*

Since coming to PCC in the 1980s, Dr. Brian and Mrs. Becky Bucy have committed to exalting the Lord together in their work.



**A**lbeit separately, God used the same method to direct Brian Bucy (from Maryland) and Becky Buchanan (from Maine) to PCC—a back-page magazine



advertisement for the College. It wasn't long after Brian arrived at PCC to do graduate work during Becky's senior year that the two met. They married

soon after finishing their master's degrees and found themselves asking God what they should do next. With encouragement from work friends and the Lord's leading, the Bucys decided to stay at PCC.

Brian (M.A. in Bible

Exposition, '83) has worked in maintenance, taught high school Bible, and currently serves on College faculty in the Bible department. After earning two advanced Bible degrees in Indiana and Pennsylvania, Dr. Bucy concurrently teaches Bible and missions courses on the undergraduate and seminary levels. "We all work together to get a job done—that is to promote the cause of Christ by developing students spiritually, intellectually, morally, culturally, and socially," he said. "I have a privilege to do this locally and globally while being in northwest Florida!"

Becky (B.S. in Secondary Education '81; M.S. in Secondary Education '83) has worked

a variety of jobs from daycare to Student Care to College English faculty to even filling in for P.E. and Pensacola Christian Academy (PCA) faculty. "In my wide exposure to this ministry in working in close to twenty areas, I have been extremely impressed with the excellent skills and ministry heart that I have seen in every area where I have been," she said.

Together, the Bucys saw their three sons graduate from both PCA and PCC, finding jobs as a doctor, a lawyer, and PCA high school principal. "Besides receiving

an excellent Christian education, growing up with an abundance of Christian friends, and constant

exposure to excellent Christian mentors, they also received wonderful work and ministry experiences to increase their skills and love for the Lord," said Becky.

Brian is thankful for how his time at PCC has allowed him to further God's ministry. "How else could an insignificant person from the hills of western Maryland come here, find Becky, and have part in a ministry that reaches around the world? There is no human explanation," he said. "Our goal is that Christ may have the preeminence in all things and be worshiped among all peoples. PCC helps us strive to achieve that goal."

**"Our goal is that Christ may have the preeminence in all things."**



# 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 • Criminal Justice • Cybersecurity • Engineering

## **PCC Staff**

- Advertising Production Artist • Library Director • Maintenance Carpenter
- Maintenance Director • Maintenance Residence Hall Technician (Female) • Office Assistant
- Operations Director • Payroll/HR Data Specialist

## **Abeka**

- Textbook Field Representative (South Florida) • Manager of Business Development
- Manager of Operations • UX Designer

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**

## Christmas Tidings Songs to Celebrate the Season



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

*Rejoice Singers*

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**pcci.edu/Christmas**

## Scholarship Fund Giving

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

**Adele Lawrence—  
The Alan Arlan Lawrence  
Memorial Scholarship**

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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