

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
UPDATE

Fall 2020 | pcci.edu/Update



Embracing
CHANGE
pg. 4 ►

From the **President**

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



Because of COVID-19, this fall semester has brought unique challenges for colleges around the world to navigate while fulfilling their mission. To complicate things here in Florida, on September 16, during what is usually the busiest month for tropical weather, Hurricane Sally landed near Pensacola.

The storm was originally forecasted to come ashore in Louisiana, but instead landed about 33 miles west of us near Gulf Shores, Alabama. According to on-campus measurements, the Category 2 storm released about 36" of rain and brought on-campus wind speeds of 72 mph with gusts of 93 mph!

Sally landed in the same location as—and exactly sixteen years to the day after—Hurricane Ivan (Category 3) in 2004, which many of our faculty and staff remember.

Between the two storms, the College established key preparations for events of this nature, in large part because of Dr. Arlin Horton's foresight in planning.

With on-campus generators and water wells, as well as a supply of bottled water and MREs, our Emergency Operations Command team

stood ready to take care of students throughout the storm.

Before Hurricane Sally arrived, key personnel from Safety & Security, Dining Services, Maintenance, Grounds, IT, and many other departments worked around the clock to lessen disruptions to residence hall life and to get campus back in working order after the storm passed.

The day after the storm, students embraced the spirit of teamwork and began volunteering to work alongside those who had begun cleanup efforts. By the weekend, they were reaching out to the local community to help remove debris from yards and neighborhoods.

While the storm's path was unexpected to us, we know it was no surprise to God. And we praise Him for protecting our campus family! ■





FEATURE

Griffith Tower Renovation

HAPPENINGS

Campus Changes

SPOTLIGHT

Alumnus in Public Service

MAJOR FOCUS

History Program

HIGHLIGHTS

Lyceum: Before & After

Grad in Leadership

CONNECTIONS

Engineered to Teach

Employment Opportunities

02

04

06

08

10

11

12

13



Connect with Us



GRIFFITH TOWER

Brick by Brick

When completed in 1981, Griffith Tower stood as the first 9-story residence hall on campus. Architect James Bruce, who designed several of the original campus buildings, oversaw its construction. The tower's name honors Vea Griffith (1909–2006), wife of an early member of PCC's Board of Directors, who was a long-term prayer warrior and friend of Pensacola Christian.

In recent years, the nearly 40-year-old building had shown signs that it needed updating. So, a little more than a year ago, PCC partnered with Morette Company as the general contractor and began a complete renovation. At the start of the project, the building's 290,000 bricks were removed from the exterior to add a moisture barrier before being replaced with new brick.

Starting with the building's empty shell, renovations include new drywall, paint, carpet, plumbing, fixtures, furnishings, mechanicals, and an updated lobby. Available storage was nearly doubled with newly added custom shelving in the rooms and closets. Additionally, each Griffith room, as well as all other residence hall rooms, now enjoys the added convenience of a mini-fridge and freezer.

The first-floor lobby welcomes residents with clean lines and inviting design accents.



All of Griffith Tower's original bricks were removed, and last fall some were offered to Alumni Homecoming attendees as a keepsake of their college days.





Custom desks maximize space in each room.

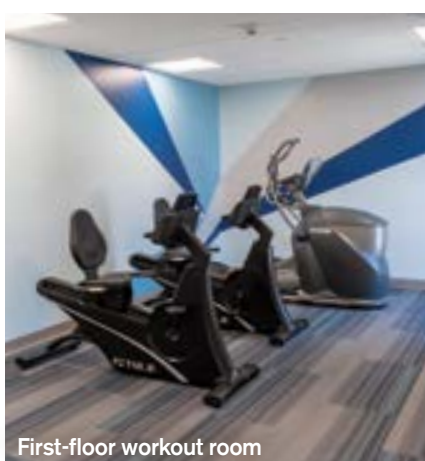


Additional shelving in the rooms and closets nearly doubles storage capacity.



One of the most significant changes students will notice is the larger dayroom on each floor. “For the building as a whole, we actually completely removed rooms 11 and 13 from each floor, opening up for a much larger dayroom with better space for accommodations and, most enjoyable, a westward view of Eagle Field and sunsets,” said Jon Abbott, PCC’s construction manager.

PCC staff Sherri Lefmann, who became residence manager of Griffith Tower after earning her bachelor’s degree in 1990, is excited to see the building continue to be a place for “Griffith girls” to enjoy. “Griffith girls always had an amazing spirit of unity. We shared friendships, limited space, and the smell of popcorn coming from the laundry room where we could pop it,” she recalled. “We are blessed to have Dr. and Mrs. Shoemaker’s leadership. They have stayed true to the building’s purpose, but added the conveniences that students are needing for both comfort and functionality.” ■



First-floor workout room



After experiencing the transition to online learning last spring, Taylor DiPaola was eager to return to campus—changes and all—for her senior year.

Embracing CHANGE

When she returned to PCC, like most students, senior Taylor DiPaola knew that campus life was going to be a little different.

After one long car ride from Virginia, Taylor DiPaola (Sr.) and her family made it back to campus for the fall semester. Out of habit, they first drove by the Academic Center before ultimately pulling up to Mullenix Chapel for Taylor's 10 a.m. check-in time. The process, spanning an hour time slot on her schedule, ended up taking much less time than anticipated. "[My parents] were surprised at how quick it was. We thought it was maybe an actual meeting to discuss different things on campus. It was nice that it was just the drive-thru option," she said. "I think I like this year's [Check-in] better, just because I didn't have to get out of my car, so I could just stop by and get my ID and move right to my dorm."

Moving into her Bradley Tower room

meant reuniting with her roommates from last year, all of which Taylor had been able to request—a popular change from previous years. Throughout her day of getting settled in, finalizing her schedule, and buying textbooks, she'd pause to catch up with friends that had nearly passed her by. "Recognizing people has been a little bit harder since you really have to rely on the eyes," she admitted.

For Taylor, a senior professional writing student who is also a collegian president, the semester feels alive with new and anticipated experiences. "I didn't think it would get here so fast. There's a part of me that feels unprepared because there's a part of me that still feels like a freshman. It's still super hard to say bye to my parents every year," she



- ◀ New strategies introduced this fall have been implemented to keep students and faculty safe while ensuring academic excellence.
- ▼ In addition to attending two chapel services in person each week, students watch two services online to reduce crowd sizes.



said. “But I’m excited! Kind of like I have this responsibility to share with underclassmen and help them on their college journey. I know God can get me through.”

Before returning to campus, Taylor stayed up to date on campus COVID changes by reviewing the College website. The updates she found answered questions she had and prepared her to embrace the changes.

“The administration has been smart with what they’ve done. Like blocking off the water fountains to prevent spreading germs there, and then having distancing spots pointed out in the Common Grounds on the floor, and reducing seating,” she said. “It helps remind us that we need to stay smart with what we’re doing, but it also makes it easy, because it’s all laid out very well.”

The semester is brimming with potential, and Taylor is ready to make the best

of every moment. “I heard one person at PCC say that through COVID, even though it’s been difficult, there have been a lot of ‘COVID blessings,’” she explained. “Look for those because, even though things are hard, having this day, this breath in our lungs, has been a blessing from God. I just encourage anyone experiencing this to be willing to grow, and to not get stuck on things that are different, but to embrace the changes and allow those to make a difference.”

Across campus, other students settled into their semester schedules and established routines—old and new. Masked faces and distanced friends are reminders of the time, but the camaraderie of sharing in each other’s company on campus again outweighs it all. The 2020–2021 school year has begun, and with it, new opportunities to make memories. ■



Patrick Callahan
Assistant Chief Counsel

PERSPECTIVE *in Public Service*

In San Antonio, about 857 miles away from the world's busiest border, Patrick Callahan ('00) has been working as a lawyer for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the last ten years.

As a deputy chief counsel at the DHS, pre-law graduate Patrick Callahan has enjoyed making a difference for the American people and in the lives of his clients. He works closely with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), supervising trial attorneys, setting goals, assigning cases, and reviewing product work. He also provides legal advice to senior ICE law enforcement personnel. "I enjoy a challenge," he said. "I find a good debate exciting, and I'm always looking to learn more, so law was a natural fit for me."

When his journey first began, Patrick had to find a college that would help him

reach his goals. "I was homeschooled, so I wanted a college that was friendly to homeschoolers, offered a solid biblical foundation, and had rigorous academics. PCC fit the bill perfectly!" he explained.

Patrick has especially appreciated two areas of training from his time studying pre-law—history and public speaking. "I am fascinated with history. Dr. John Reese inspired my love of history and convinced me of its relevance. Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat its mistakes," he said. As for public speaking, "I often conduct large meetings, which is an opportunity junior lawyers rarely have."

Patrick has also seen God work in unique ways in his life. During his senior year, Patrick sent out several applications to law schools across the country, although he had his sights set on one specifically. He was thrilled to find they had accepted him and offered a partial scholarship, but he quickly realized the cost was still too much for him and chose to attend University of Mississippi. “It offered a high-quality education at a fraction of the price,” he said.

During his first year there, Patrick soon met another student whose experience was identical while applying to different law schools. “That someone was the love of my life, Kristy. We got married in law school and have two wonderful boys, Luke and Kaleb,” he explained. “Looking back at all the paths we had been on and all the choices we made, it’s very comforting to see how God put us both at Ole Miss at the same time. God is in control, and He does care for us.”

“PCC did an excellent job preparing me for law school. Many of my fellow students at ‘Ole Miss’ really struggled with the jump from undergrad to law school. Thanks to the preparation I had from PCC, while others were stressing out and attempting to learn to operate at a new pace, I found law school to be an enjoyable learning experience.”

After graduating with his Juris Doctorate in 2003, Patrick went on to become a judge advocate in the Marine Corps, where he earned the Defense Counsel of the Year Award for the Western Region. In early 2009, Patrick switched to working in private practice, during which he wrote and published a book, and then began working in the Department of Homeland Security in 2010,

where he’s continued to serve over the last ten years.

Throughout his experiences in law, Patrick has endeavored to keep his perspective fixed on biblical principles and to serve as a witness in his field.

“Any field you work in allows you to interact with different people and to be a light to them. As a lawyer, people are constantly coming to you with their problems. It’s amazing how often that gives you the opportunity to share truths from God’s Word that apply to their situation,” Patrick said. “In my current position, I strive to always remember that government is ordained by God and to apply His principles to my day-to-day actions. It’s sad to see how few strong Christians there are working for our government,

and I think the lack of Christians in our government contributes to our societal downfall.”

After seeing the impact that years of building on his experiences, training,

and maintaining a biblical perspective in his work continues to have, Patrick is thankful for the paths that have made up his life’s journey up till now.

“I highly recommend [that] anyone looking for a quality education at a Christ-honoring school strongly consider PCC. Twenty years down the road, you will be very thankful you were strengthened in your walk with Christ, taught valuable life lessons and skills, and didn’t needlessly saddle yourself with debt,” he explained. “I know I am!” ■

“In my current position, I strive to always remember that government is ordained by God and to apply His principles to my day-to-day actions.”

Alumni in Action

See how other pre-law grads are using their training to serve God in remarkable ways within the field of law.

pcci.edu/PrelawGrads

☆ A FIRM ☆ FOUNDATION *History & Political Science*

Alumni in history and political science are using their positions to stand for truth and excellence using biblical principles.

Imagine being a politician, gearing up to begin canvassing door-to-door to meet and engage with voters, when the COVID-19 pandemic freezes the entire campaign mid-stride. Cameron West (*Political Science; Pre-Law '18*), who has been a self-employed, independent political contractor since graduating from PCC, faced that challenge earlier this year.

Specializing in campaign management, grassroots organization, and pub-

lic relations, Cameron recently held a contract position with the Maine House Republicans as the field director, spearheading recruitment efforts for many of the 151 State House districts. The pandemic proved to be a worthy—and unexpected—opponent this year. To continue promoting their campaigns, Cameron and his candidates switched methods and used social media, drive-in events, and small in-home group meetings instead.

This fall, Cameron began pursuing a juris doctorate at Regent University School of Law. Leading up to attending Regent, he has leaned on his training in writing, time and stress management, public speaking, as well as building his understanding of policy issues with a biblical foundation. “Having a biblical



Cameron West

foundation for your beliefs provides a sense of security that you won't find anywhere else. This is increasingly evident in the world around us, where political and social positions seem to be changing on what seems like a daily basis," he explained. "When you base your beliefs on biblical foundations, you don't have to worry about what the social norm or what the majority think and change accordingly with the news cycle; you can stand firm knowing that your position will never have to change. Obviously, that isn't true for all policy decisions, but generally speaking, the principle stands true."

Both PCC's history degree and political science concentration emphasize America's unique founding and biblical foundation, as well as show history from a Christian perspective while promoting service to others. Students studying history are prepared to enter fields of law, politics, journalism, education, religion, and social sciences. Those studying political science are trained to become informed citizens who make a difference for their country and influence the world with their understanding of government.

Esther Slater McDonald (*History; English '00*) earned her juris doctorate from



Notre Dame Law School in 2003 and has been a lawyer partnering with Seyfarth Shaw LLP for the last 12 years. Usually, she manages anywhere

from 100–150 cases at a time and oversees attorneys working those cases. Her work focuses on counseling and defending companies that prepare credit or background screening reports. Since the pandemic first began, Esther now works remotely full-time, attending hearings, mediations, trial courts, and appellate courts by tele-

conference or videoconference. "I think the changes are positive, and I hope that courts will continue to provide remote options," she explained. "Litigation is expensive, and permitting litigants to attend proceedings remotely will reduce costs and increase access to justice."

Esther appreciated the push to strive for excellence that she received while at PCC, helping her to defend her own views while being open to learn from others. "[My teachers] challenged me to think critically. They allowed me to question ideas and engaged with me, challenging my points while allowing me to defend them," Esther explained. "Those experiences taught me that challenges ensure a firm foundation. Today, in my practice, I challenge legal positions, and I ask those who work with me to challenge mine—if my position withstands the challenges, I know it's a good one. If it doesn't, I know I need to discard the argument or revise it to strengthen it."

"The advantage to PCC's programs are their emphasis on United States History and our insistence on basing our courses on the Bible's principles when it



comes to society's institutions of the family, church, and government," said **Marie Thompson**, Chair of Humanities. "From working at United States Central Command in counterterrorism analysis to serving as an aide to a member of Congress, or as a press secretary to a sitting United States senator, our history and political science majors are serious students with a desire to change

the world for Christ. They want to serve the Lord and their country. They are critical thinkers with a passion for what is right." ■

**For more information, visit
pcci.edu/Humanities.**

HIGHLIGHTS



Lyceum Renovation: Before & After

In addition to Griffith Tower's renovation this summer, the Lyceum in the Academic Center was refurbished from top to bottom.

Completed alongside the Academic Center in 1985, the Lyceum, a 264-seat multipurpose lecture hall, hosts classes and other large gatherings.

Within its walls, students have enjoyed history and Bible classes, English and history seminars, academic clubs, collegian meetings, and student-organized prayer groups, while faculty and staff have used the space for team meetings and corporate training.

After returning for classes this fall, students found that the warm pink and tan colors of the wallpaper and brown carpet were replaced by cool grays and creams, along with a spacious workspace in place of the orange seats and wood-paneled desks.

"The biggest change is indeed the seating," said Jon Abbott, PCC's construction manager. "No more desks, but rather contiguous, sweeping worktops

with power supplies and swivel seats, to boot."

While offering a more spacious experience, the Lyceum's upgraded workspace reduced available seating by about 50. "To accommodate the more roomy seating, the depth of each tier was extended over 5 inches," said Eric Fears, director of Campus Planning and Development. "This resulted in eight stadium-style tiers, rather than the original nine. Handrails were also added for safety."

Bible faculty member Dr. Dan Troutman has appreciated the changes. "The room is much more inviting, and students will really enjoy having the 'tables' instead of traditional desks. I sat in the Lyceum for classes 30 years ago and made life-changing decisions for Christ in that room," he shared. "I'm excited to see God work in other students in the Lyceum the way He worked in me." ■



PCC Grad Granted Leadership Position with Yum! Brands

As of July, PCC grad Cameron Davies (*Business Administration*, '89) holds a new leadership position as chief data officer with the world's largest restaurant company, Yum! Brands. As the parent company of KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, and The Habit Burger Grill, Yum! has more than 50,000 restaurants in over 150 countries and territories.

Clay Johnson, chief digital and technology officer at Yum! Brands, welcomed Davies to the team in a statement: "Cameron's diverse expertise in big data and advanced analytics, and his track record of building centers of excellence in those areas, will allow Yum! to further amplify our focus on elevating our customer experience with digital and technology at the forefront, which is key to growing our brands and driving results."

Before entering the corporate world, Davies earned an M.B.A. from the University of West Florida and taught business courses in finance and accounting at PCC through 1996, when he began at The Walt Disney World Company working with finance and business management.

Over the next seventeen years, he ran resort forecast and planning teams and global yield management for Walt Disney World Resorts, delivering analytics to drive business priorities to Disney executives. In 2013, he joined NBCUniversal as the senior vice president of Corporate Decision Sciences and led the Corporate Management Sciences and NBCU News Group Insights teams. ■

Upcoming Events

With uncertainty due to COVID-19, events listed below should be considered tentative.

PCC Spring Semester Opening Weekend for family and friends of students

January 22–24, 2021

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

Bible Conference Uplifting Bible Preaching

February 22–24, 2021

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

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

March 1–2, 2021

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

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

March 4, 2021

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

PCC Commencement for families and friends of graduating students

May 14, 2021

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

Connections

Stories from PCC

Engineered to Teach

When **Dr. Joel Porcher** discovered a love for teaching college students, he found a lifetime of rewards in God's design for his life.

After he completed a Ph.D. in engineering at Clemson University and an M.Div. in seminary, Dr. Joel Porcher and his wife felt the call to serve in Christian ministry. A registered professional engineer at the time, Dr. Porcher enjoyed working in the engineering field in South Carolina. But he began to realize how much he enjoyed training students while teaching sophomore mechanics courses at Clemson when he was a graduate assistant.

Through a friend, the Porchers learned that PCC was looking for an engineering faculty member, so they decided to pursue the opportunity.

"We saw the Lord's leading during the interview process, and we have since enjoyed working with the college students and other outreach areas of PCC," said Dr. Porcher. During those first few months, as the Porchers grew accustomed to their new routines, colleagues befriended them, helping and advising them on life in Pensacola. "The College has a 'team partner' approach to help new families adjust," he said.

Upon arriving in the fall of 1991, Dr. Porcher began teaching mechanical engineering courses. Nearly 30 years later, he still comes in each day prepared to meet with students in lecture, lab, or office settings, willing to assist them with whatever they need.



"At PCC, I am able to serve alongside believers who love the Lord and are dedicated to pleasing Him. Our students are motivated to prepare for the calling that God has given them, and it is a joy to have a part in that training," Dr. Porcher said. "I love teaching at the college level."

Dr. Porcher and his wife enjoy the work environment that PCC provides—daily interaction with colleagues who are also serving the Lord and opportunities to fellowship during meals on campus and services at Campus Church.

Besides teaching on engineering faculty, Dr. Porcher has filled many roles over the years including dean of basic sciences and engineering, dean of Pensacola Theological Seminary, chair of the engineering department, and assistant chair for engineering and computer science. During past summers, he worked for Abeka, HVAC Engineering, and Engineering and Science Camp.

"In those early years, and up to this day, we have seen college students grow, and we have enjoyed hearing about the Lord's work in the lives of alumni who have kept in touch," Dr. Porcher said. ■

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

PCC Staff

- Assistant Treasurer • Auto/Bus Mechanic • Carpenter • Chief Information Officer • Designer
- Electronics Engineer • Marketing Project Coordinator • Telecom Technician • Video Editor

Abeka

- Copy Editor • Digital Proofer • Director of Business Development • Educational Consultant
- Marketing Brand Director • Preschool Editor/Writer • Textbook Field Representative (Mid-Atlantic)

For More Openings...

- Visit pcci.edu/EmploymentOpportunities.
- Send résumé with short testimonial to EmployeeServices@pcci.edu.

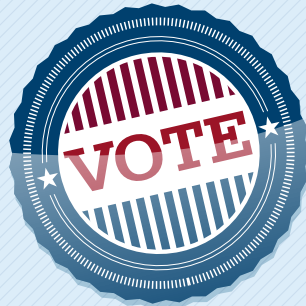
In God We Trust *Songs that Celebrate America!*



The Patriot Song • Shenandoah • We Who Come Behind
America, I Still Can Hear Your Song • Under God
In God We Trust • *and more*

Spirit Singers

Download on iTunes or Order CD at
pcci.edu/America



Vote Nov. 3

This election will help shape America's future regarding Christian and family values. Laws harmful to your family, church, or school could pass if candidates are elected who do not share your family and freedom values. Be an informed and motivated voter. Your vote counts!

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

THE QUICKEST WAY TO **SAVE THOUSANDS ON COLLEGE**

go.pcci.edu/4thYearTuitionFree

After you apply at PCC and reserve your spot in the Fourth Year Tuition-Free program, you'll be joining a community of students preparing to influence the world for Christ. Don't wait! Expires Dec. 1, 2020, for the spring semester.

*Tuition only. Students are responsible to pay for room and board as well as other fees during their 7th and 8th semesters. This offer is open only to U.S. and Canadian citizens and U.S. permanent residents. PCC reserves the right to change tuition and other fees as deemed necessary by the administration, including any necessary changes to the Fourth Year Tuition-Free program. PCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin.