

THE UPDATE

Pensacola Christian College Alumni & Friends



DRIVEN TO *DREAM*

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Two generations of PCC engineering alumni make groundbreaking strides in the world of autonomous vehicle development. Their company, NiFT, is changing the landscape for future innovators.

Advancement | Growth | Innovation

SPRING 2025

VOL. 3 ISSUE 2

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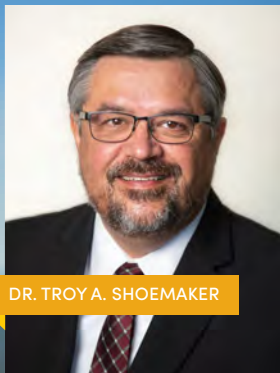
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FROM THE PRESIDENT



DR. TROY A. SHOEMAKER

The spring semester began with a surprise as PCC—and much of the southeast—experienced a historic snowfall. The campus response was both swift and effective. Operations staff worked diligently to clear snow and maintain essential services for residential students, while faculty quickly transitioned to online instruction to ensure academic continuity and protect the safety of both commuter students and faculty. **God has provided the tools and teamwork needed to adapt, innovate, and rise to the challenges of a fast-paced world.**

One innovation we're excited to share with you is a brand-new Bible concentration, Media Ministries. With all the opportunities that churches have to spread the gospel through technology and social media today, there is a tremendous need for Christians who have a solid biblical foundation and the technical know-how to support them. Graduates will learn how to be a light for their generation, connecting people to the truth of the gospel.

And as part of our dedication to improving daily life for our students, faculty, and staff around campus, you'll notice new features and technologies in recreational facilities, classrooms, and dining halls.

The mindset behind these developments is the same as we've always had: to prepare our graduates so that when they receive their diplomas and step out into an ever-changing world, they are ready. So let me extend this invitation to you. If you're in the area, drop by and see us. Take a tour of our updated facilities and get to know our incredible student body who every day are working toward fulfilling God's calling. But while things may look a little different and there may be new faces for you to meet, **the heart of what makes us PCC has never changed and never will.**

Sincerely,

Troy A. Shoemaker, Ed.D.
President

HISTORIC SNOWFALL TRANSFORMS PCC CAMPUS

January 2025 brought record-breaking snowfall and unforgettable experiences to Pensacola.



See photos, read memories, and watch a snowfall time lapse at pcc.edu/SnowDay.

Connect with us



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Driven to Dream: Representing two generations of PCC alumni, Shane Elwart (*Engineering—Mechanical '98*), his wife Holly (*Elementary Education '98*), and their kids founded the engineering company NiFT where they are pioneering the future of transportation, glorifying God through excellence and innovation.



If you haven't subscribed yet, visit go.pcci.edu/Update25

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DRIVEN TO DREAM

Two generations of PCC alumni are building the future of driverless transport at their vehicle-prototyping company, NiFT.



Shane and Holly Elwart with NiFT's electric car, the Lotus Evora

"My entire life, I wanted my own company," said Shane Elwart (*Mechanical Engineering '98*).

The entrepreneurial endeavor began when Shane, his wife Holly, and kids Austin, Brandon, Spencer, Whitney, and Westin took to the family garage with the goal to build a driverless car in 100 days. Using a golf cart frame, a 3D printer, an Xbox controller, and YouTube videos, the Elwarts raced to the finish line, completing the fully autonomous vehicle on day 108. Named for its cube-like shape, the QB Shuttle was just the beginning.

Since then, Shane and his family have pioneered driverless development at their vehicle-prototyping company, NiFT. The apt acronym comes from Jeremiah 32:17. Shane quoted, "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power





and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.' [From] 'nothing too hard for thee,' I thought 'not impossible for thee.' That's where the name comes from: NiFT."

APPLYING PASSION

Upon founding NiFT, Shane had 20+ years' experience developing autonomous features, over 100 U.S. patents, and had led global technology teams for Ford Motor Company and Great Wall Motor Group. With his inventing expertise and passion for problem solving, Shane was prepared to pioneer his own driverless development.

Since he was born again at a young age, Shane has always prayed for God to guide his life. He considered several career paths

as an adult, including the U.S. Air Force Academy. When he received a course catalog from PCC, he felt God directing him to study engineering with a mechanical concentration. "I feel like I was called to be an engineer. This is what the Lord designed me to do," Shane said.

Shane and his wife Holly (*Elementary Education '98*) began dating while students at PCC, and they married after graduation. While studying, Holly was encouraged by the example of PCC founders Arlin and Beka Horton. "The hard work and faithfulness [Shane and I] observed from the Hortons made a huge impact on our future goals. We learned to strive for excellence in all things and give God the glory for what He is doing in our lives."

Inspired to follow in their parents' footsteps, the Elwart kids also attended PCC to build career foundations. At college, Austin (*Management, Marketing '21*) prepared for his current position: business development manager at NiFT. His brother Spencer (*Sr., MI*), an intern at NiFT, appreciated how PCC's engineering competitions complemented his engineering major with a mechanical concentration. "I thrive on building and creating. [The College's] program offers competitions that challenge us to apply classroom knowledge in real-world scenarios."

Austin and Spencer's brother Brandon (*Mechanical Engineering '21*), a full-time engineer at NiFT, enjoyed troubleshooting designs at college. He said, "Real-life engineering is approaching problems that you don't know how to solve and working to come up with a solution."

CREATING QB

Building the QB Shuttle was not the first time the Elwarts collaborated. Shane and Holly regularly encouraged their kids to create. "I always loved to build things," recalled Spencer. "I remember helping my

dad and brothers construct a trebuchet that could launch a volleyball across our yard—and we even built a hovercraft with some wood, a trash bag, and lots of duct tape, [all] powered by a leaf blower!"

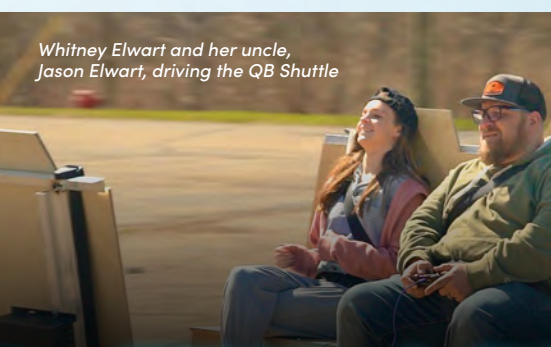
While constructing the cube-shaped vehicle, the Elwarts used every resource at hand to build rapidly. "At a startup, often the most important thing is learning how to do something quick and doing it right the first time," said Austin. Shane and his sons ordered parts on Amazon, researched YouTube, welded, and even used a CNC machine—a computer-controlled manufacturing device—to carve auto parts. Holly and Whitney (*Fr., MI*) installed the shuttle's interior seats. The Elwarts used a golf cart frame as the vehicle's foundation. After, they connected the wiring of the actuators—mechanical devices that turn energy into motion—to an Xbox controller. Like a bus or train, the QB Shuttle enables passengers to work or rest instead of driving. Additionally, the QB Shuttle is accessible, making it available to millions of people who use wheelchairs.

The Elwarts kept safety and affordability at the forefront of their development. While working for Ford and Great Wall Motor, Shane saw that autonomous vehicles were often expensive. The Elwarts developed the QB Shuttle to cost a fraction of competing driverless platforms, making the vehicle available to more people. To ensure security for passengers, the QB Shuttle is built for transit in low-speed urban areas. Shane said, "In both the safety side and the cost model, we [wanted to build] something different. That was the impetus for the QB Shuttle."

Like many PCC graduates, the Elwarts lead for good as they give back to their community. They are paving



PCC graduates Jordan Howard, Micah Donegan, and Brandon Elwart working at NiFT



Whitney Elwart and her uncle, Jason Elwart, driving the QB Shuttle

FIND A PROBLEM THAT NEEDS SOLVING

CREATE THE WAY TO SOLVE IT



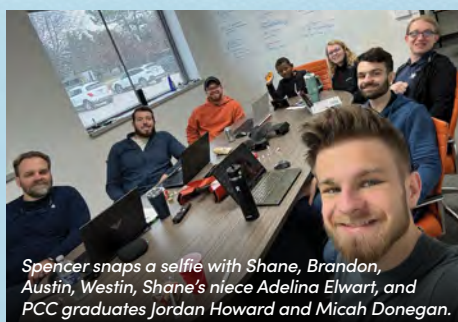
Shane and his brother, Joshua Elwart, building the QB Shuttle while PCC alumni John Agamalian and Brandon Elwart look on

the way for driverless development by free sourcing the QB Shuttle in their home state of Michigan. This project began when a local college offered to buy the shuttle from the Elwarts. But the Elwarts did more than sell the QB Shuttle. Seeing an opportunity to give, they decided to free source the entire design for only the price of the vehicle. This granted local engineers the legal right to use the QB Shuttle platform—including by-wire development, software, and electronics—completely free of charge. Because the shuttle is on site, the Elwarts are even providing a mentoring program to local engineers. Shane said, “We’re giving them access to all the design documents and helping them to move the shuttle to their concept that they want to build. The goal is to elevate the playing field for autonomous development.”

NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEE

The Elwarts never imagined building a car and a company as a family. “I love that God has allowed me and Shane to work alongside our children,” Holly shared.

Being entrepreneurs has provided the Elwarts with opportunities to build a wide range of skills. At NiFT, the family provides complete engineering services and a product line, spanning from electrifying vehicles and prototyping to building products like configurable batteries, surge breakers, and much more. For Austin, every day is different. “My job at NiFT is to do what is required and fill whatever gaps the business has.”



Spencer snaps a selfie with Shane, Brandon, Austin, Westin, Shane's niece Adelina Elwart, and PCC graduates Jordan Howard and Micah Donegan.

Brandon shared Austin’s sentiment. He emphasized that an excellent entrepreneur should be willing to adapt. “Flexibility is so key.” Brandon explained, “There are frequently times, as deadlines approach, where overtime is required.

These hours are hard but are always the most rewarding work. It’s a great thing to get home feeling fulfilled, knowing you did the best job you could.”

By working together, the Elwart family has grown closer. “I’m thankful for Holly,” shared Shane. “She has been a great encouragement and has a great deal of insight.” Shane and Holly have also enjoyed seeing their children contribute their different talents to NiFT. “It has been a privilege to work with our children and see them use the abilities God has given them.” Shane said, “They have each played a unique role in building NiFT.”

The Elwarts are excited to continue providing cutting-edge engineering services and innovative products, reflecting Christ through their skills. The name NiFT is a constant reminder that God—the greatest Creator—is leading them. “When tackling entrepreneurial challenges as a family, I believe we all have a desire to follow the Lord and glorify Him.” Shane shared, “We’ve told people, it’s not about what’s not impossible for us. It’s about the Lord. Nothing’s impossible for Him.”

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EMBRACING INNOVATION: TECHNOLOGY



As technology evolves, Pensacola Christian College remains committed to innovation, continually enhancing learning and campus life to equip Christian leaders to influence their world for Christ.

Technology. It's a word that sparks conversation in every generation. Some lament its growing influence, pining for simpler times, while others eagerly anticipate the possibilities it brings. Regardless of perspective, one thing is certain—technology continues to shape the way we learn, work, and connect.

At Pensacola Christian College, innovation has always been integral to our mission of equipping Christian leaders for excellence. Since the College's founding, strategic advancements in technology have enhanced both academics and

campus life, ensuring that students are well-prepared to make a lasting impact for Christ. Whether in the classroom, through state-of-the-art learning tools, or across campus with improved student resources, PCC remains committed to leveraging technology for student success.

DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALS

In the early days of PCC, classroom technology looked much different from what is used today. Alumnus Mark Smith (*Secondary Education '81, MS: Educational*

Administration '84) reminisced, "The technology we had available included pencil, paper, chalkboards, overhead projectors, audio-cassette tape recorders, phonograph vinyl record players, and handheld calculators. The newest technology was the VCR—video cassette recorders."

He continued, "To write papers, we used typewriters, including White Out liquid or overstrike correcting tape to cover and correct mistakes rather than start the page all over again. We also bought laminated heavy stock guides for behind the paper so you could see how many

AT PCC

In fall 2024, PCC became the second college in Florida to offer mobile ID cards for students and staff.

lines we were from the bottom margin so we could leave room for footnotes!”

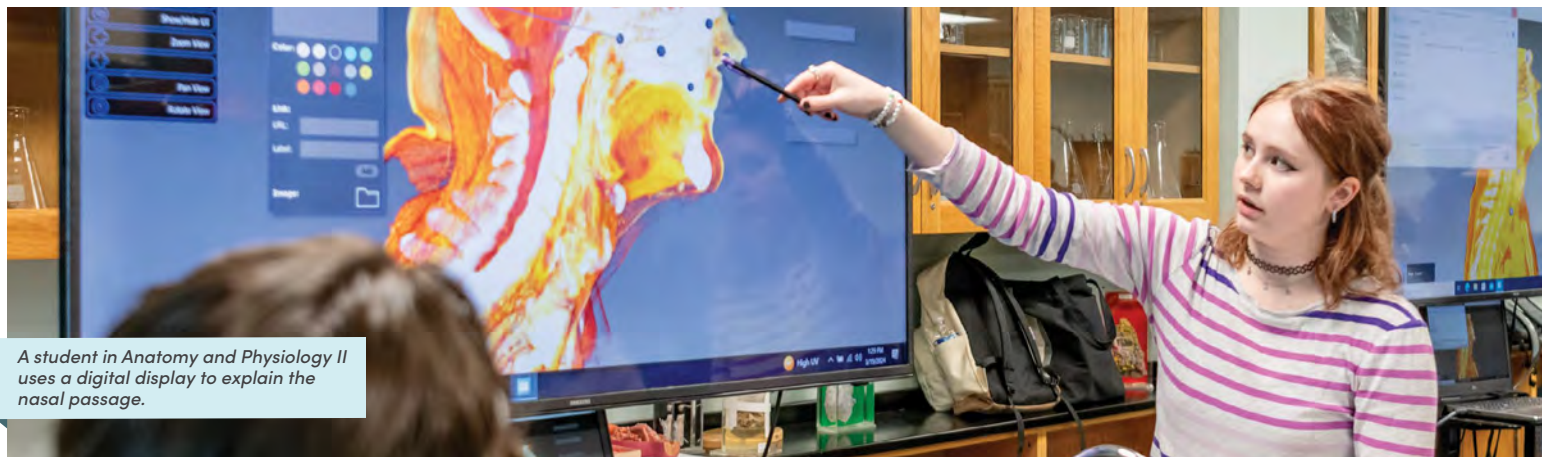
Five decades later, students continue gaining the best quality education as academic deans, chairs, and faculty members tirelessly explore ways to improve classroom learning. A Technology Committee ensures the College stays apprised of emerging trends for strategic development. “We’re always looking for ways to refresh our programs and keep them up to date,” shared Assistant Chair of Engineering and Computer Science Dr. Jonathan Sparks. “This means regu-

larly reevaluating the technology we use in the classroom.”

This constant push to provide exceptional classroom experiences has led to the implementation of cutting-edge tools, including high-tech equipment in PCC’s many laboratories. For example, pre-physical therapy students go beyond biomechanics lectures by using a Noraxon Ultium system to observe and track kinesiological data. “There are three different types of sensors in our Noraxon Ultium lab system: IMU (inertial measurement units) sensors,

EMG (electromyography) sensors, and pressure insoles,” explained Dr. Elijah Spencer, a natural sciences department faculty member. Students taking Exercise Physiology, Kinesiology, and Biomechanics use these sensors to see muscle movement and fatigue in real-time. The system’s hands-on approach helps students visualize what they are learning, preparing them for real-world scenarios.

In other natural sciences department classes like Biotechnology, Developmental Biology, and Genetics, students enjoy using new cell biology equipment



A student in Anatomy and Physiology II uses a digital display to explain the nasal passage.

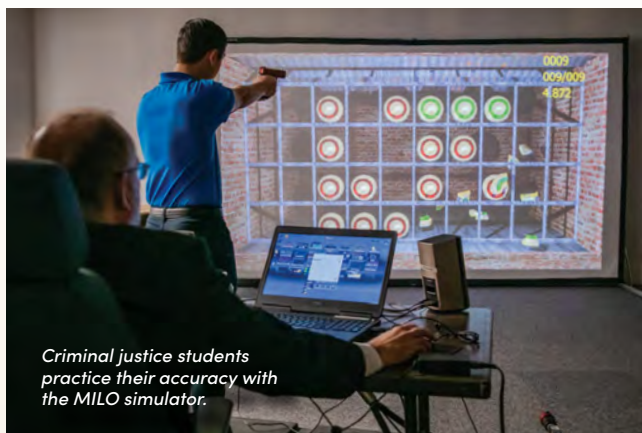
to grow cells and learn cell culture techniques that set them up for future studies. “Students who continue into graduate school after PCC will use these skills in laboratory research, as well,” shared Dr. Sebastian Spencer.

A few floors beneath the biology labs, education majors learn how to integrate SMART boards into their lessons to enhance student engagement and bring concepts to life. Future teachers are equipped to create dynamic learning experiences, from graphing equations with virtual rulers and protractors to diagramming sentences, exploring vocabulary through interactive games, and visualizing historical events with animations. “I love using the SMART boards for peer teachings!” shared junior secondary education major Christian Fulfer (FL). To further support their training, students also receive free access to Abeka-created digital teaching aids, providing them with additional resources to prepare for the classroom.

Criminal justice and nursing students use state-of-the-art simulators that blend curated scenarios with real-life situations. The Gaumard HAL S5301 simulator (HAL) equips nursing majors to respond to a variety of pre-programmed healthcare scenarios. See an in-depth explanation of HAL’s features at pcc.edu/HAL.

A Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives (MILO) simulator immerses criminal justice students into potential law enforcement situations from within the safety of a training environment. “This system orig-

inated as a way to train police officers,” explained criminal justice faculty member Dr. Barry Walker. “Now, [it] has progressed into a decision-making matrix. There are over 800 different scenarios that are loaded into [it]; depending on how the person going through the scenario responds, the operator can change the scenario to make it more realistic.”



Criminal justice students practice their accuracy with the MILO simulator.

Dr. Walker continued, “PCC is currently the only academic college that uses MILO; all the other institutions that use this system are police training academies.” This distinction gives the College’s criminal justice majors extra experience and prepares them for the challenges they will face in the workforce.

CONNECTING THE CAMPUS

While the benefits of technology are vast, some fear it can propel people to lose connection. But Chair of Performing Arts Dr. Jonathan McIntyre disagrees with that criticism. “I’ve actually seen students collaborating on their iPads or laptops,” he

shared. “They’re not tethered to a lab or desktop. This ability to connect through technology has encouraged [them] to work together and allowed them more opportunities to do that.”

Even as recently as 2012, staying connected required a lot more work. “If I wanted to meet up with [other] students to get a group project done, I’d have to meet up with them before or after class so we could plan a time to work on the project together,” shared 2012 graduate Elizabeth Converse (*Elementary Education ’12, M.S.: Educational Leadership ’20*). “If we couldn’t talk to them before or after class, then we would use the room phones to try and contact them.”

Now, students have a variety of other options for contacting classmates. While some prefer staying in touch via Microsoft Teams, senior criminal justice major Katrina Bunes (CA) usually gets her classmates’ cell phone numbers. “If I’m not able to get their number for whatever reason, I message them through Canvas,” she added.

Canvas is a learning management platform students use to see class assignments, grades, and announcements. It also has features for communicating with classmates and faculty members, as well as a calendar application that shows assignments and due dates for all classes. Students can use Canvas on their laptops or phones, making it easy for them to access all the information they need wherever they go. Sean Londrigan (Sr., IL) uses the task list feature in Canvas to make college life easier. “On oc-



casion, I will insert an important personal task into my Canvas to-do list to ensure that I do not forget,” he explained.

Eagle’s Nest, the College’s student web portal, provides a one-stop place for academic and campus information and streamlines student communication with faculty members. “Back in the late ’80s when I went to college,” explained graduate Jim Thompson (*Accounting ’90*), “our professors really could only communicate with us either in class or during their office hours. If they needed to talk to us during their office hour, normally we’d get a call slip in our mailbox.” Professors can now either email students through Eagle’s Nest or contact them through Canvas, which makes sharing information and offering support a lot more efficient.

Sean, like most students, also uses Eagle’s Nest to keep track of his grades. Before Eagle’s Nest, students would have to view their grades on paper in class or, during finals, they could view them on cork boards in the Field House. “We called it the ‘Wailing Wall,’” shared graduate Lauri Lou Borges (*English Education ’10, M.S.: Curriculum and Instruction: English ’12, Ed.D.: Educational Leadership ’22*). “The entire class’s grades would be posted, usually in order by ID number. Luckily, our names weren’t posted with the grades on the wall.” Today, stu-

dents enjoy push notifications through the MyPCC app when a new grade is posted.

SUPPORTING CONVENIENCE

With more and more technology being integrated at PCC, campus life has become more convenient than ever. Months before each semester begins, students build their class schedule and register on Eagle’s Nest. Then, they’re immediately able to access a list of textbooks which they can order through Barnes and Noble College’s online store. When students arrive to begin classes, their books are bundled and waiting for them. Or, some students opt for digital textbooks, which they can download to their tablets, computers, or smartphones.

As they settle into semester routines, students can look at dining hall menus and create a meal plan or even use an app to order food! “The only choices we had back in the 1970s were eat it or eat it not,” shared Mark Smith. “The dining hall had only one line, and there were no menus.” Now, students can view the dining menus for Four Winds, Varsity, and Grab N Go through Nutrislice, an online menu management system launched in fall 2024. These menus show the calories and ingredients of items on each line, as well as provide allergen information. A nutrition calculator enables students to add items they plan to eat and see a total nutritional value of their meal. Many students take advantage of this feature. “Every day, I look at the weekly menus to plan what I’m going to eat,” shared Katrina Bunales.

Due to busy schedules or to add variety to their routines, some students prefer purchasing food from The Palms, an on-campus restaurant facility featuring a Chick-fil-A, Papa Johns, and The Grille. Sarah Burrell (NC), a senior nursing stu-

dent, appreciates being able to use The Palms mobile ordering app on her busier days. “I love using the app, especially after a clinical day at the hospital,” she said. “I can order Palms ahead of time and have it ready when I get back to campus.”

As of fall 2024, staff, faculty, and students can now make on-campus purchases and access buildings using their PCC Mobile ID. Getting into residence halls, buying coffee at Common Grounds, eating meals in the dining halls, and entering facilities can all be done with a tap from their phone or smartwatch. PCC is the first private college and the second overall college in Florida to make this feature available. “I love the convenience,” shared Jim Thompson. “We didn’t use our ID cards much when we were students, but now current students don’t even have to worry about losing their physical card. They always have their phones or smartwatches with them.”

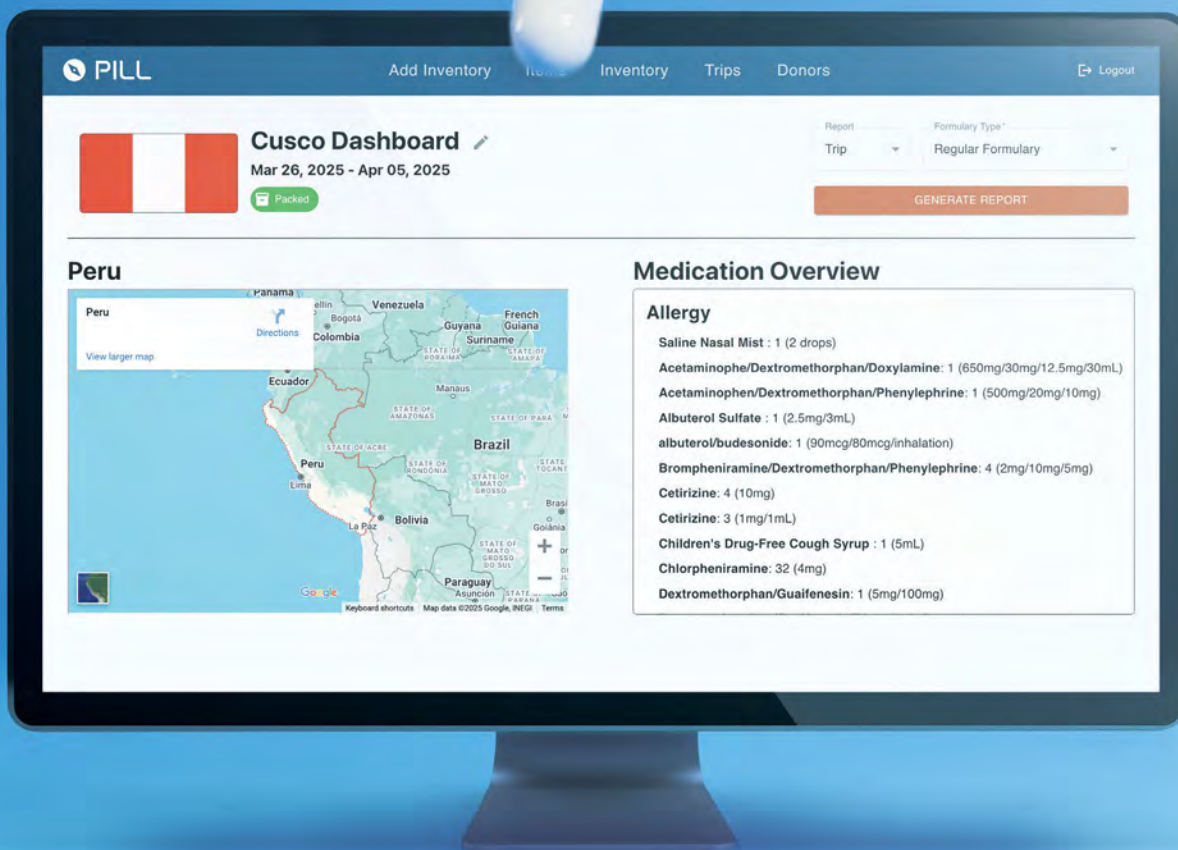
Through the years, Pensacola Christian College has embraced technological advancements to enhance both academics and campus life while staying true to its mission. From classrooms equipped with cutting-edge learning tools to campus-wide digital conveniences, technology continues to support student well-being and achievement. “Our implementing technology isn’t just for the sake of technology,” shared Academic Vice President Dr. Raylene Cochran. “We use technology as a tool to help teach our students how to excel.”

Beyond the innovations, PCC remains committed to what truly matters—preparing Christian leaders who will use their knowledge and skills to make a difference in the world. As the College looks ahead, it will continue leveraging technology to serve future generations while preserving the values that have defined it from the beginning.



Students go over their class notes in a study group.

TECHNOLOGY ON THE MISSION FIELD: COMPUTER SCIENCE MEETS MEDICAL MISSIONS





On a recent Medical Missions Outreach trip, team members use the PILLS app to make sure all medications are out and ready to be distributed.

Several PCC alumni and students work together to help Medical Missions Outreach.

Pensacola Christian College alumni Briton Kelley (*Computer Science and Software Engineering '19*) and Ryan Shrewsbury (*Computer Science and Software Engineering, Computer Information Systems '19*) wanted to use their knowledge of technology to help advance missions, but neither of them knew where to start. In the summer of 2023, however, Briton and Ryan would be given the opportunity they had been searching for.

BEGINNING OF A PARTNERSHIP

Since 2021, Ryan Shrewsbury has worked for Ramsey Solutions as a software engineer. He enjoys using his skills every day to help his team solve solutions and write better code. “I love to equip people to do their work better,” he shared. “There are so many things that people either could be doing more efficiently or just not at all.”

Despite enjoying his job at Ramsey, Ryan felt something was missing. At a church conference, the speaker challenged the congregation, “What can you do with your talents in service of God’s kingdom?” This question echoed in Ryan’s mind, and he decided to see if he could use his skills at his church or for local mission boards.

Not finding an opportunity, he shared his vision with an old college friend, Briton Kelley. “Briton and I graduated together and remained friends thereafter,” Ryan explained. “We are both software engineers so whenever we catch up, we often talk about work and projects we are working on outside of work.”

He continued, “I told him about what I was trying to do with missions and how it didn’t work out. To my surprise, he was having similar conversations with MMO [Medical Missions Outreach] but with greater success. He then suggested we work together on it.”



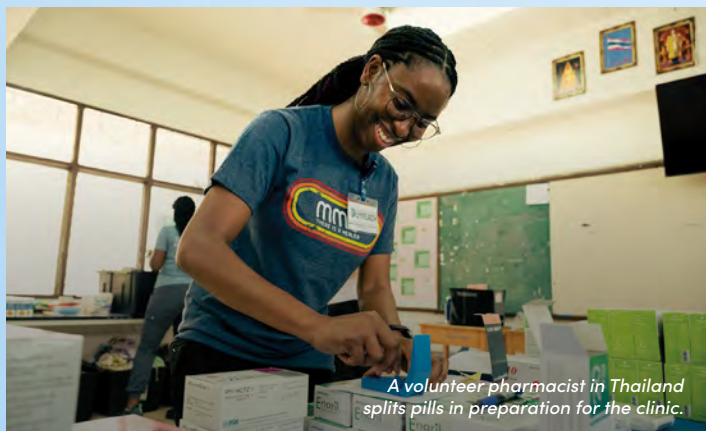
Briton Kelley (PCC '19) and Ryan Shrewsbury (PCC '19) work with Kelly Edmondson (PCC '99) on operating the new PILLS system.

WORKING WITH MMO

As a software engineer for Amazon, Briton also enjoyed his job. But after hearing about several needs MMO had from his wife Lydia (*Nursing '20*), he called their main office and asked if he could help develop technology that teams could use on the mission field. PCC alumnus and MMO executive director Bradley Edmondson (*Pastoral Ministries '01*) was overjoyed.

“When Briton called about helping us with technology, we immediately knew our answer,” Bradley shared. “We asked if he could create a pharmacy inventory system to keep track of pharmaceuticals as they are donated,





A volunteer pharmacist in Thailand splits pills in preparation for the clinic.



Bradley Edmondson (PCC '01) gives a morning devotional on the way to start a clinic in Ethiopia.

purchased, stocked, packed, utilized, and restocked.”

Started in 2005 by Bradley and his wife Kelly (*Nursing '99*), Medical Missions Outreach has flourished as a mission board for medical professionals. Before each trip, volunteers and MMO staff spend time gathering and organizing pharmaceuticals. “Keeping track of pharmaceuticals is a tedious task,” Bradley explained. “All medication names, dosages, lot numbers,

expiration dates, and manufacturers must be recorded and reported to the country in which they will be utilized.”

“After telling Ryan about this project I was kicking off for MMO, he offered to help,” shared Briton. “Ryan was crucial in helping me finish development and officially ship the product.” Talking with their college professor

and friend Dr. Michael Geary (*Business Management, Computer Science '94*), Ryan and Briton informed him of their new project with MMO.

Through Dr. Geary, chair of engineering and computer science at PCC, Briton and Ryan were able to partner with senior computer science students. “From the start of the project, it was planned that work

would be done for and given to MMO,” Dr. Geary explained. “Their current inventory and packing system was based mainly on Excel. Providing a new software application that was more user-friendly and modern was a way to give students a realistic project and connect it to a ministry mindset.”

TALENTS FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

During the 2023 fall semester, four PCC students taking the capstone course Software Engineering Project I began working on a new software system for MMO. The team traveled up to MMO's warehouses in Atlanta, GA, to see where the pharmaceuticals were stored. “We wanted to look at the current process MMO followed so we could figure out a way to leverage technology and save them time,” explained Mason Schmidt (*Computer Science '24*), one of the team members.

The process “included writing down lot number, UPC number, expiration date, and dosage,” continued Mason. Once the computer science team arrived back on campus, they started writing code and working on an app that would help manage, track, and report medication. “The features we included in this project were barcode scanning, QR code printing, trip planning, inventory management, and report generation,” shared Mason. “I also worked on analytics for real-time charts and graphs of the inventory.” In May the project was delivered to Briton, and he

and Ryan added finishing touches to the system before sending it to MMO.

Once this system was delivered, it was named PILLS: Pharmacy Inventory Label & List System. “Using PILLS speeds up the inventory and packing process and prevents errors,” Bradley explained. “It has, in turn, saved our staff countless hours of entering this information manually to create the necessary documentation for permissions as well as updating our inventory lists.”

He continued, “MMO is constantly adapting and evolving to be a ministry that does everything with excellence. The technology that we are implementing in medical missions keeps our patients safer, provides data and statistics for future expansion, and [promotes] better time and asset management.”

Through their partnership with Medical Missions Outreach and PCC computer science seniors, Briton and Ryan were able to influence thousands of lives on the mission field. “I hope [this project] shows other Christians that even as software engineers you can make a big difference in ministry,” Briton shared. “You don't have to be the one preaching, teaching, providing medical treatment. You can use your skills in a tech-driven world to provide a huge impact to a ministry.”



THE UPDATE

Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven
and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm,
and there is nothing too hard for thee.

Jeremiah 32:17



SET THE STAGE:

THE CREATIVE COLLECTIVE

While staying current with industry advancements, Pensacola Christian College prepares music and performance studies students to influence the world from the stage.

As the lights dim and the curtains rise, the stage ignites feelings of excitement, wonder, and appreciation for the performing arts. Every individual present—onstage, backstage, or seated in the crowd—is a part of a shared, unrepeatable moment. Because it's not just a piece of music or speech at Pensacola Christian College; it's an invitation to witness the light of Christ shining through beauty and creativity.

PULLING IN THE AUDIENCE

In the world of theater, the goal is to tell a story that speaks to the audience. "The actors, the directors, scene shop, costumes, all of them come together to create a collaborative piece of art," artistic producer Liz Thomason (*Performance*

Studies '16, M.F.A. Dramatics '19) stated, "which is why when you get into things like technology and how we can advance that, we can pull in our audience more."

Since PCC's productions have remained impressive over the years, a patron of the arts may not immediately notice the notable lighting and control systems that have been installed in the Dale Horton Auditorium (DHA). Modern equipment and opportunities for students to gain professional and practical experience have been expanded.

Twelve new spotlights hang over the balcony, and digital multiplex signal (DMX) lights are now controllable by remote. This upgrade allows for more lighting and color options during and between scene changes, and for those working the control panel, the equip-

ment is now centrally located in the auditorium in clear view of the stage.

To create atmosphere in scenes, a new fog machine and two new haze machines were added to the collection. Creative lighting was used in *The Sound of Music* to portray Maria von Trapp's character as a lens that light shone through. *The Sound of Music* was also the first production to use Follow Me technology, a tag worn by the actor, so a spotlight follows them around the stage.

"We're focusing on a different way of thinking about set design," explained Liz Thomason. "We're used to building concrete-style stages that are highly realistic, as if you're taking a tour through a historic house. But I'm trying to pull the audience back into

COME SEE WHAT'S
BEHIND THE CURTAIN!



Walk through the
DHA with us and
take a behind-
the-scenes tour
by watching
this video!



During the Kaltzberg Festival
scene, *The Sound of Music* cast
sings "So Long, Farewell."

CAPTIVATE

something more interpretive, by creating set pieces that are a part representing the whole.”

Seemingly separate pieces, the new lighting fixtures, mood-setting machines, and approach to building sets, when they are in sync with each other, result in a unified experience that can captivate the audience.

AN INITIATIVE THAT ELEVATES

Like a drama played out on the stage by a team of actors and a crew, musicians, though individuals, unite during performances by exchanging cues, taking turns leading, and providing accompaniment. This kind of communication doesn’t happen by accident.

Deep in the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) building on campus, Dr. Amy Bombard (*Music* ’95, *M.S. Music Education* ’97, *D.M.A. Piano Performance* ’06) and her husband Dr. Charles Bombard (*Music* ’96, *M.S. Music Education* ’98, *D.M.A. Violin Performance* ’07) coach a chamber music group, a piano quintet. While she focuses on the pianist, he focuses on the four string players (two violins, viola, cello).

The students under their tutelage make up one of several chamber ensembles, small groups of musicians who grow together through their four years of studies, creating experiences both on and off the stage. Dr. Bombard and her husband introduced the chamber music opportunity in spring 2023, and it has rapidly grown to include a piano trio as well as brass and woodwind quintets led by other music faculty. “It has been a lovely, beautiful experiment,” said Dr. Amy Bombard. “The beauty of chamber music is that each one of those students at one point is the lead or the focus,” she explained.



“And then a few phrases later, they recede and become the accompaniment to another who then rises to the surface.”

This chamber initiative fosters the small group setting, a place to develop relationships and create music together. “In our group now, we’re breathing as one, making eye contact, making space for each other, and creating this music intentionally,” Dr. Bombard added, “and that is a unifying factor that makes them just unstoppable.”

What not many know is that back in 1993 under the mentorship of Dr. Alberto and Mrs. Daisy Jaffé, founders of the innovative Jaffé Strings method, the Bombards were members of the original chamber group at PCC along with three others. Over 30 years later, the Bombards have taken up the

torch and are continuing to invest in the next generation of musicians. “Kind of full circle, we are doing the exact same configuration. Now my husband and I are the coaches, and we’re mentoring in the same way that Dr. and Mrs. Jaffé had mentored us.”

PERSONALIZED DEVELOPMENT

At PCC, students are motivated to take their skills to the next level, collaborate with and lead others, and ultimately be a shining light for Christ through their talents. Graduates are trained to teach, serve in Christian ministry, or pursue a performance career. Several students and alumni have even performed in Carnegie Hall.

Sharing from her years of experience as a music student, faculty

Brianna Olesky (Jr., NY) plays the flute in the Mullenix Chapel.

Graduate assistant Summer Barker (WV) and Eve Allen (Performance Studies '20) run cues in the lighting and sound booth.

member, and current division dean, Dr. Amy Bombard said, "In our field, it's really easy to compare. But since God gave us the abilities, we instead need to keep our eyes fixed on Christ." With this in mind, students studying either music or performance are encouraged to flourish in their abilities. In-depth preparation develops in lectures and classes that lay a foundation in theory, history, creativity, directing, and other ways to share pieces with an audience.

For music students, private music lessons start at the student's level, paving a personalized pathway for skills and techniques to increase. Small and large group settings create a community among musicians as well as opportunities to collaborate, lead, and perform together. Students are instructed by experienced and caring faculty members

who have a passion to invest in others. And while they hone their gifts, students are motivated to grow in multiple areas and to prioritize focus on their ultimate audience: God.

DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Part of the College's learning objectives is to produce a well-rounded individual with the ability to recognize true beauty in art. "By empowering Christian leaders, we're training them to be able to look at something and appreciate beauty not because it's been hailed as some kind of spectacle but because it's actually beautiful," commented Liz Thomason. "We can't hide the fact that there's darkness in the world. But we also

don't want it to take over," said Dr. Amy Bombard. "So, we select art, music, and productions that show the tension of both of those things coexisting. The biblical worldview is at the core of everything that we do. It is intentional, it is strategic, it is purposeful."

Each semester students, faculty, and staff have the opportunity to attend the Fine Arts Series, a selection of musical performances and theater productions that highlight acclaimed guest artists or quality student productions. All those who participate share an experience that aligns with biblical values. And after the curtain drops and the applause fades, the beauty of performing art is to inspire each heart to come away challenged and drawn closer to the light of Christ.

INITIATE

iNVESTiNG iN COMMUNiTY WELLNESS

By providing new sports events, health resources, and Christian service opportunities, PCC is investing in a thriving community where staff, students, and faculty build relationships, health, and faith.

At Pensacola Christian College, wellness is not just a priority—it is a pillar of a thriving community. Far from making it secondary, the College encourages health as an avenue to honor God, for He created each person in His image. When Christians can stay well by building relationships, maintaining their bodies, and thriving spiritually, they lay the foundations for purposeful, godly lives where they serve others with Christlike love. Investing in wellness is a key way PCC realizes its purpose: empowering believers to influence the world for Christ.

To help the College community stay healthy, PCC is continually providing new sports events, updating health resources, and adding Christian service opportunities. Fitness and recreation manager Mr. Ryan Gullledge said, “Fitness comes in many forms, from structured workouts to fun activities. We provide diverse opportunities that encourage personal growth, strengthen our community, and equip students, faculty, and staff to glorify God in all they do.”

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH RECREATION

Intramural sports are a way the PCC community can grow in friendship. When classes are dismissed, staff, faculty, and students

of all majors can visit the Arlin R. Horton Sports Center to participate in a variety of sports. Offerings include racquetball, ice skating, rock climbing, bowling, and others. Mary Griffith (Jr., GA) loves seeing how recreation unites the college. “[What] I love most about the recreational facilities is the people,” Mary said. “There is a rock-climbing community—they all encourage and help each other. There is a volleyball community. I can go through each one, but I love being able to see and know people from each group.”

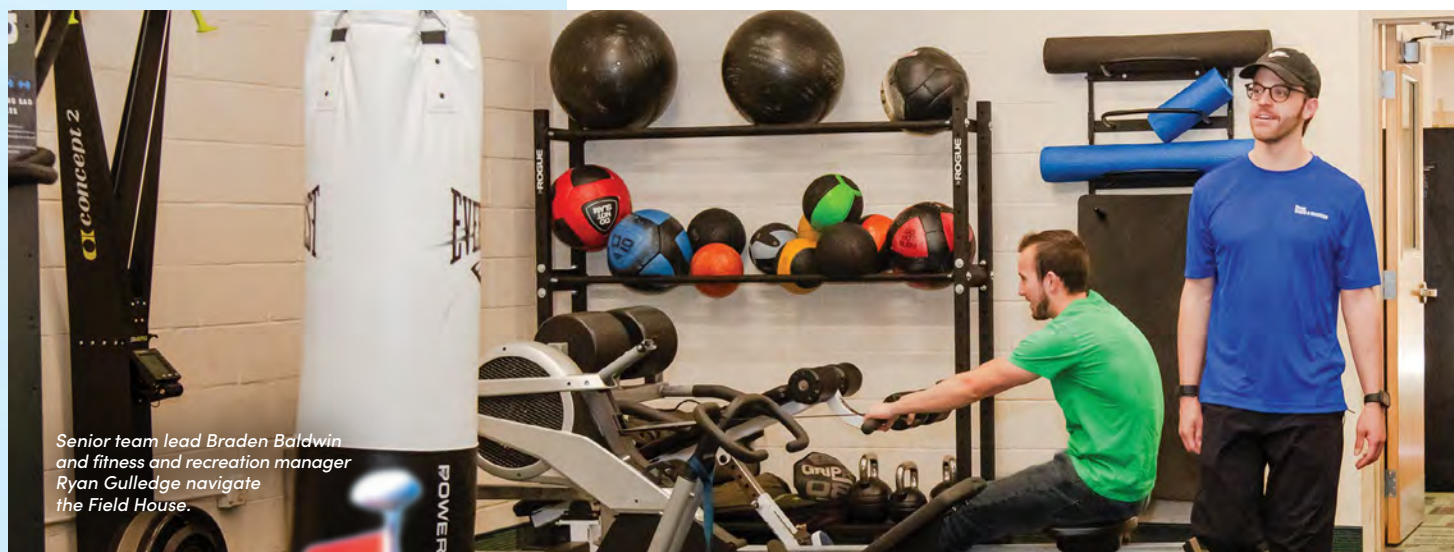
To grow unity between staff, faculty, and students, Mr. Gullledge and the fitness and recreation team have launched combined staff and student volleyball tournaments. These competitions build teamwork between peers and provide opportunities for staff to mentor students. Mr. Gullledge said, “The new student and staff volleyball tournaments foster community, encourage physical activity, and strengthen campus connections.”

Students with different majors may never cross paths in a classroom, but they come together to play. Whether students prefer to roller skate, bowl, climb the rock wall, ice skate, use the water park, or simply to catch up with their classmates, they can find a place to belong at the Sports Center. Fitness





Chase Brink (So., MI) plays pickleball on campus at PCC.



Senior team lead Braden Baldwin and fitness and recreation manager Ryan Gullede navigate the Field House.



and recreation administrative assistant Serena Bryan (*Interdisciplinary Studies '24*) shared, “Everyone can participate. Students go to network [and] see people from class and people from other majors.” Serena added, “It brings you out of your bubble when you ask to join a game. Our games are usually in groups, so you’re building interpersonal skills as you take a break from school.”

Student employees are an invaluable part of PCC’s fitness and recreation team. They provide a warm welcome to peers and are always happy to answer questions and explain games. Sports Center student-employee Sean Londrigan (*Sr., IL*) said, “I cherish the opportunities to provide guests, both current students and off-campus visitors, with a [great] experience.” He added that because “staff and managers work very closely, I have made incredible friends. The managers are always excited to talk with and encourage the workers to be the best they can be.”

Thanks to PCC’s variety of recreational events, the college community enjoys many opportunities to make great memories and create lasting relationships. Sean shared, “The Scriptures call us to build each other up. PCC’s recreational facilities provide incredible opportunities to make friends, learn from one another, and edify others, all to glorify our Creator.”

ENCOURAGING HEALTH

To help staff, faculty, and students stay healthy as they build relationships and serve the Lord, PCC is updating fitness equipment and providing more health resources. Mr. Gullede said of these additions, “PCC is working to teach a generation how to enjoy and value taking care of their health. We are worshiping God through our physical health; that is going to drive every step we take.”

PCC takes student suggestions into account as updates are added. Thanks to requests, the men’s gym in the Field House features new lifting equipment. Fitness and recreation senior team lead Braden Baldwin manages this space. Excited about these additions, he shared, “The Field House’s new equipment enhances training, performance, and overall fitness. Whether for sports training or general fitness, the equipment ensures students have the best tools to reach their goals.” The fitness and recreation team is also expanding the women’s gym in the Sports Center. By summer 2025, they plan to have the new space fully stocked with equipment.



Beyond PCC, the fitness and recreation team has added equipment to Camp o' the Pines for both staff and students to enjoy. During special events, students use e-bikes to cruise through the forested trails, making these outings even more memorable. For a change of scenery, PCC's West Campus offers waterfront views. Visitors may also employ on-site kayaks and catamarans to set sail on Pensacola's beautiful Perdido Bay—the home of redfish, catfish, bass, and even the occasional dolphin.

To further invest in staff, faculty, and graduate assistants, PCC has introduced the Fit to Serve program. PCC personnel can use this resource to take part in diet and exercise challenges. Through these activities, participants earn rewards that can be redeemed and applied either to a paycheck or to an Employee ID Card. Braden, a participant in Fit to Serve, shared that the platform provides “great motivation through challenges, tournaments, and the point system that encourages fellowship, fitness, and fun.”

Physical health is not just shaped by activity—it is also influenced by dining choices. With Nutrislice, PCC's new, online menu platform, students, staff, and faculty can easily access information about nutrition, ingredients, and allergens for the College's dining halls and to-go meal service. Nutrislice also includes an online calculator for tracking calories. These initiatives help individuals stay healthy so they can serve and pursue God's calling with strength and vitality.

SERVING THROUGH SPORTS

At PCC, fitness is about more than striving for excellence in sports: it's an avenue to build up a community of Christian leaders who show their faith through service. To glorify God, PCC is giving Eagles athletes additional opportunities to minister. Recently, two Eagles missions trips to Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire were launched through Youth Outreach Missions. With 55 Christian Service organizations already available to students, these missions trips give student athletes an additional chance to share Christ while using their athleticism and bonding as a team.

“Life is about serving,” faculty member Coach Mark Goetsch said. “Often sports casts a focus on self—improving of my skills to play a

sport I love—but Christian service truly gets the focus off individual self or even the ‘team's self’ and directs it toward others.”

Basketball player Kyle Evers (Sr., MO) served in a youth basketball camp during the Eagles' 2023 trip to Côte d'Ivoire. He appreciated opportunities to be involved in missions while sharing his favorite sport. He and his teammates contributed to Sunday school classes, junior church, and teen outreaches. “Eagles athletes are equipped to better influence the world for Christ through service,” Kyle explained. “It is truly special how God can use something as simple as a leather ball, wooden floor, and a metal rim to influence souls for eternity.”

At home in the U.S., PCC's student athletes are also reaching the Pensacola community for Christ. Lady Eagles volleyball player Hope Brooks (So., ME) has participated in five service events with teammates. She has enjoyed contributing to Christmas toy drives and food drives for Ronald McDonald House, a nonprofit that provides food and shelter to families with ill children. “Service opportunities bring the team closer,” Hope shared. “Spiritually, I get more out of it than I would have ever imagined. Jesus calls us to help those less fortunate than we are, and putting His teaching to practice gives you exceeding joy.”

From befriending a new person at the Sports Center to sharing the gospel through Christian service, the PCC community enjoys countless opportunities to strengthen friendship, health, and faith. By creating more wellness opportunities, PCC is making investments with eternal influence. Coach Goetsch said, “Many times, we don't see the final results, but seeds are planted for Jesus Christ. God's love is shown, and we leave the results to Him.”

**PCC is
working
to teach a
generation
how to
enjoy and
value taking
care of their
health.”**

Q&A

STUDENT



DAVITA REYNOLDS

Performance Studies, Junior

What led you to study performance studies? And why at PCC? I've always had an interest or a pull to acting or being on the stage. After a series of events, I realized it was a gift God had for me to pursue. I've heard of PCC for the majority of my life because the Proclaim Ministry Teams would come to visit my church. So, after hearing they had a major for speech/acting, doors opened for me to be here.

What has been your favorite class so far? I really enjoyed Worldview and Apologetics actually. It was challenging, but I learned so much that truly helped my spiritual walk. Specifically with the fact that I thought anything apologetics was for a higher-level people. So, when our teacher was explaining things to us, he made it very clear and understandable and helped us understand even more. I was able to have better conversations with friends and family. And it was just very encouraging, learning more about and strengthening my faith!

What skills are you acquiring that will be useful in your future career? I've learned about how to handle one's stage presence, how lighting works on stage, how to direct, how to build a stage, and so much more. I remind myself that even though it seems like I'm not going to need certain classes, I look at the big picture and realize that I might not need it for my major, but I will need it for my life in the future.



TIMOTHY MATHER

Pre-Medicine
& Mathematics, Senior

What led you to study pre-medicine and mathematics? And why at PCC?

I decided to study pre-medicine since I have always enjoyed science, and I wanted to be able to help people in some way. Sophomore year, I started pursuing biomedical research instead of clinical practice. PCC was a natural choice for me since I was

homeschooled through the Abeka program, and I knew it had a strong biblical worldview.

Where do you feel the Lord leading you after graduation? I believe that the Lord is leading me to pursue a Ph.D. in one of the biomedical sciences after I graduate and then pursue a career in research and teaching, Lord willing. There are not many Christians in secular academia, where I plan to work. While this will be challenging in some ways, it is important for people to see that there are scientists who believe in both science and the Bible, and that these two are by no means at odds with each other.

How has the Christian environment encouraged spiritual growth during your time here? For one, it's fantastic to have an environment that pushes me to pursue the Lord and grow in Him, not just from church and chapel messages, but also from positive "peer pressure" of godly friends (iron sharpening iron). I would say that this is the thing that has been the most beneficial to my spiritual growth, being able to make friends with people who also want to mature spiritually and to be mentored by those who have walked faithfully with the Lord for many years.



JIN KIM

Graphic Design, Senior

Why did you choose to study graphic design? And why at PCC? I chose to study graphic design as a way to serve the Lord. I realized that God gave me design skills, leading me to change my major from nursing. Also, I decided to study at PCC to study beside other believers and grow in Christ.

What has been your favorite class so far? Though I do not regret switching to graphic design, I've been a little uncertain whether this was the right path for me. However, once I started taking Graphic Design I, I began seeing this as something I could enjoy doing for a lifetime. I loved all the projects that I worked on in that class. I hope everyone who takes this class enjoys it as much as I did!

How do you stay motivated to achieve your [personal] goals? There is a huge difference between praying and not praying. If I start my day with daily devotion and prayer, surprisingly, my mind is at peace even though the situation is as crazy as before. However, if I don't start my day with daily devotion and prayer, I feel rushed, overwhelmed, burnt out, and unmotivated. Therefore, every morning, I make time to pray to God that His thoughts become my thoughts and my plans align with His plans.



THADDAEUS KUTRIEB

Nursing, Junior

Why did you choose to study nursing? And why at PCC? I chose nursing because I had always loved science growing up and felt the Lord's guiding and directing me to pursue a degree in which I could be a light to the world in a secular workspace. As I grew in the Lord and continued closer to high school graduation, I realized that I needed to go to a Christian college to meet godly friends, [learn under the] biblical worldview, and, above all, strive for excellence in academics. I realized that PCC offered exactly what the Lord was directing me to. I took a step of faith and followed the Lord's guidance, and He continues to show me in so many ways that I am in His will and right where He needs me to be.

What are your favorite PCC events and why? I LOVE Bible Conference so much. The music and preaching each year are exactly what I needed and at the right time I needed it. Worshiping God with friends all week brings us closer together as a student body and helps set the tone for us as we finish the semester.

How are you building a professional network while in college? PCC provides many ways to network your professional career through instructor connections, career fairs, and setting up LinkedIn profiles. The Career Fair is a great opportunity to explore jobs according to your major. PCC brings in many businesses and companies who are looking to hire, and it allows us students to interview and show them our communication skills.

STUDENT SNAPSHOT

TIMOTHY MATHER

CLASSIFICATION
Senior

COLLEGIAN
Delta Pi Delta Kings

HOMETOWN
Hokkaido, Japan

FUN FACT
The longest hike I've been on is a three-day, two-night trek my sister and I did across a mountain range in the center of our home island of Hokkaido.

DAVITA REYNOLDS

CLASSIFICATION
Junior

COLLEGIAN
Alpha Kappa Rho Wolves

HOMETOWN
Linden, North Carolina

FUN FACT
I like coffee, but I've been told I just like sugary milk since I prefer a lot more creamer than coffee.

JIN KIM

CLASSIFICATION
Senior

COLLEGIAN
Theta Mu Rho Chargers

HOMETOWN
South Korea

FUN FACT
I won 1st place in a local chalk contest in high school.

THADDAEUS KUTRIEB

CLASSIFICATION
Junior

COLLEGIAN
Pi Kappa Delta Cougars

HOMETOWN
Valparaiso, Indiana

FUN FACT
I love shoes, and my favorites are Jordan 4s.

UNSUNG HEROES

THE QUIET FORCE BEHIND PCC

Individuals
working in PCC
Operations learn
valuable skills
while helping PCC
run safely and
smoothly.

For PCC Facilities Operations, flexibility isn't just a skill: it's a mindset. That was never more evident than on January 21, 2025, when a historic winter storm covered campus with nine inches of snow. With only four snow shovels and some pool salt, the team faced a challenge unlike any before. But instead of hesitating, they adapted, solved problems, and got to work. Roads and walkways were cleared, and by the end of the week, campus life had returned to normal—thanks to their dedication, resourcefulness, and commitment to service.

Louis Slaughter prepares for a job by loading up a facilities management van.



A Grounds crew smiles for a selfie after shoveling snow.



HEROIC TEAMS ON CAMPUS

That same adaptability defines their work every day. Beyond handling unexpected weather events, PCC Facilities Operations is responsible for the essential systems that keep the College running. Zachary Arnhart, PCC's chief engineer, helps oversee many of these operating systems. He shared that the primary responsibility of the Engineering department "is maintaining various systems on campus. These include HVAC (temperatures can be monitored and controlled remotely), emergency generators (we can run the entire campus on our generators), classroom audio and visual, the keys/locks/doors for all of campus, building tap access, the clocks and bell tones, TVs, and the critical alert speakers." Plumbing, engineering, and maintenance are also areas covered by PCC Facilities Operations. Whether responding to an emergency repair or ensuring everything

operates smoothly behind the scenes, their work allows students, faculty, and staff to focus on accomplishing what God has called them to.

Flexibility is essential in managing HVAC systems as part of daily operations, especially in northwest Florida's varied and sometimes extreme temperatures—from sweltering summer heat and high humidity to unexpected winter chills. Every campus building is climate-controlled by the HVAC Controls Group, which continuously monitors and adjusts temperatures and humidity levels to maintain a comfortable environment for students and faculty. But their work goes beyond comfort; they also implement energy-efficient solutions to manage costs without impacting building occupants. This requires constant coordination with HVAC maintenance teams to ensure that equipment runs efficiently, AC units function properly, and any downtime is resolved quickly to keep campus operations running smoothly, no matter the season.

MEETING THE HEROES

Reliability is just as crucial when it comes to campus-wide power systems. Louis Slaughter, who works with the engineering team managing the campus-wide stand-by generation system, ensures that PCC is never left in the dark. After serving 21 years in the U.S. Navy, Louis retired from the military in 1993 and prayed for three things: a warm climate, a reasonable cost of living, and a good school system for his five children. The Lord led him and his family to Pensacola, where he began ministering at Pensacola Christian College.

Since 1995, Louis has faithfully served behind the scenes, first as a maintenance electrician and then, since 2005, as the Standby Generation Facilities Manager. His work ensures that PCC remains operational even in unexpected circumstances. "If the electrical utility has a power outage, PCC can continue operating campus wide as normal until regular service is restored," he explained. "Or if

Emergency Maintenance worker James Rickenback helps fix repairs needed across campus.

HVAC workers ensure campus buildings stay at a comfortable temperature all year round.

there is an isolated issue in a residence hall, that building's life safety systems can be powered by a dedicated generator, allowing the building to remain occupied." Thanks to careful planning and expert maintenance, students and faculty can trust that essential systems will remain operational, no matter what the circumstances. "It has been a joy to work alongside a faculty, staff, and student body that is unashamedly set apart for His glory," Louis reflected. For this team, it's not just about keeping the campus running—it's about serving God. Every repair, every upgrade, every long shift is an opportunity to glorify Him.

While some have specialized skills, zone technicians must be ready for anything—true jacks-of-all-trades, prepared to handle whatever comes their way. Maria Davis exemplifies this versatility, working not only on HVAC systems but also tackling plumbing issues and general maintenance in the women's residence halls. With dedication and skill, she ensures everything runs smoothly, keeping systems fully functional and up to date. Maria finds joy in her work, knowing it has a purpose. "I'm grateful that God allows me to create a place where students can feel safe, comfortable, and at home after the busyness of their day," she said.

Flexibility isn't just a requirement for everyone who works in Facilities Operations, but for some, it's part of God's

design for their journey. Steve Salmans is one of those people. Salmans, who came to PCC after seeing an ad for the director of facilities maintenance position, knew God had been preparing him for this moment through his years as a facilities director at the University of Wyoming and his 23 years as a bi-vocational pastor. This opportunity was more than a job; it was the perfect blend of his professional skills and his heart for ministry. Once he and his wife moved to Pensacola and started working at PCC, they knew they had been placed at the College for a reason. "We're equipping Christians to live their lives," said Salmans. "This is an opportunity to glorify the Lord. Jobs aren't just jobs here."

That same sense of purpose drives team members like Gino Bento, a master plumber at PCC. His journey to this role was full of unexpected turns, leading him to his true calling. Gino first came to PCC as a student, pursuing a degree in a different field. But after graduating, he realized that the career he had trained for wasn't where he felt called. Instead, he wanted to serve behind the scenes, using his hands to make a tangible impact.

Ironically, before college, Gino had been offered a plumbing apprenticeship—an opportunity he had initially passed up. Yet, in God's perfect timing, he found himself

applying for a full-time position in PCC's plumbing department. Looking back, what once seemed like a detour was actually preparing him for the work he was meant to do.

Just like his journey, Gino's role is anything but routine. "The unique thing about my work here," he said, "is that we handle both commercial and residential plumbing. We work with high-rises, water utility systems—you name it." Every day presents a new challenge, but for Gino and the rest of the team, each challenge is an opportunity—not just to fix a problem, but to serve with purpose and impact lives in ways that often go unseen.

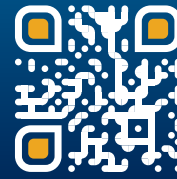
Whether clearing snow during a once-in-a-century snowstorm, keeping climate control steady across campus, ensuring critical systems run without fail, or handling everyday repairs, PCC Facilities Operations is more than just a maintenance team—they are the unsung heroes of campus life. With dedication, excellence, and faithful service, Facilities Operations carries out God's calling in their own work—keeping every corner of PCC running smoothly—so that students and staff can wholeheartedly pursue and fulfill His calling in their lives.



Employee Services
SERVING PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
AND AFFILIATES

JOIN OUR TEAM!
Apply today.





*PCC students get ready
for a snowball fight on
Eagle Field.*



MAKING HISTORY

February 4, 2025

PENSACOLA'S SNOW DAY

"For the first time since 1993, it snowed in Pensacola, Florida, on Tuesday, January 21. PCC students, staff, and faculty all enjoyed this historic day. Read this exciting news article and more on PCC News!

pcci.edu/SnowDay



*Chad Morehead advises
a student as he sets up
broadcasting equipment.*



MEDIA MINISTRIES

April 3, 2025

10 QUESTIONS WITH MEDIA MINISTRIES

Pensacola Christian College has introduced a new Bible concentration—Media Ministries! This highly requested program teaches students skills they can use to help further the reach of local Christian churches. Read about this concentration on PCC News.

pcci.edu/MediaMinistries



*Adam Clague's painting
Cara Cara Core*



ADAM CLAGUE

February 27, 2025

CAPTURING GOD'S BEAUTY WITH PAINT

Pensacola Christian College graduate Adam Clague (Commercial Art '06, M.F.A. '09) is a prominent artist known for his realistic paintings. Read about his journey from student to fine artist on PCC News!

pcci.edu/Clague

NEHEMIAH

THE IMPACT OF

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N

E

Over the past 16 years, God has blessed our family with the privilege of planting and pastoring Castleview Baptist Church of Castle Rock, Colorado. In 2008, our family arrived, settled, and began meeting with people. We held our first services in a rented elementary school eight weeks after arriving. God has allowed us to reach unbelievers, disciple converts, and just this past March, build and move into our very first church facility. And here's what we've learned: **Fulfilling God's plan for your life requires a heart to help, eyes to see, hands to work, and a voice to lead.** This was also Nehemiah's testimony. His legacy stands as a profound example of the impact that the faith and leadership of one person can have upon his community. Nehemiah utilized four specific building materials to accomplish the task.

A HEART TO HELP

Nehemiah's vision was rooted in compassion. His desire to rebuild was not founded on personal ambition but on a deep love for his people. As the cupbearer for King Artaxerxes, he had much to lose by intervening. His role provided comfort and security; to remain uninvolved would have been the safe route. But Nehemiah chose to lay aside his own comfort to meet the needs of his people. Isn't this the model we find in Jesus? At the heart of the sacrifice of Christ is this simple truth: **Jesus laid aside His comfort to meet our needs.** The road to the cross was **paved with hardship** (*our King had nowhere to lay His head*), **lined**

with rejection (*even the disciples refused His plan*), and **hazarded with betrayal** (*the very closest to Him denied they even knew Him*). And in spite of it all, He came to meet our need.

Friends, your growing faith is marked by a desire to meet the needs of those around you. It's been said like this: "Compassion is your hurt in my heart." As you grow in faith, allow your heart to embrace empathy. Engage with those in need, listen to their stories, and let compassion drive your actions. Lasting growth occurs when we prioritize the well-being of others, echoing Christ's love to those around us.

EYES TO SEE

Nehemiah was gifted with vision; he could see what others couldn't. Upon arriving in Jerusalem, he took time to survey the damage and meet with God before revealing his plans to rebuild. **Vision is seeing what CAN BE, even if it doesn't currently exist.** And that kind of vision requires a higher perspective than we possess. Therefore, Nehemiah's vision was rooted in God's plan. He could see because he was both **RIGHT** with God and **ALIGNED** with God. Nehemiah was sure to confess his sin (*Isaiah 59:2*) and then sought the Lord.

Do you have a vision for your life? God does. His plans for you are both ambitious and good. And while that is true, it's easy to get so caught up in the numerous details of the day that we lose sight of the big picture. **Here are three big-picture items that require God-given vision:**

Am I growing in my walk with Jesus?

Am I influencing those under my leadership to love Jesus?

Am I leading those around me to follow Jesus?

This week, take time to slow down, meet with God through prayer, and hear His voice through the Word. Where have you been blinded by busyness? What areas need more attention? What sin do you need to confess so that you can regain vision from God?

HANDS TO WORK

“The people had a mind to work.” I love that phrase. It’s the beauty of discipline. **The man who gets the results that others want is the man who does what others won’t.** There was something in these Jews that was not afraid of work. And here’s the truth about work in Nehemiah: It was unappealing in at least three ways.

It was unappealing due to unfavorable conditions. When the Jews arrived, there was cleanup to be done before reconstruction could even begin, not to mention the limited resources for building and the lack of manpower for such a large project.

It was unappealing due to critics and opposition. In chapter 4, Sanballat and Tobiah famously ridicule the Jews. It’s almost humorous when you read their attempts at intimidation. “Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall” (*Nehemiah 4:3*). Today, those sneers lack teeth, but at the moment of building, there must have been an intimidating bite to their ridicule.

It was unappealing when they compared their jobs to the jobs of others. Let’s be honest, repairing the dung gate or the valley gate wouldn’t have been as appealing as repairing more prominent sections of the building.

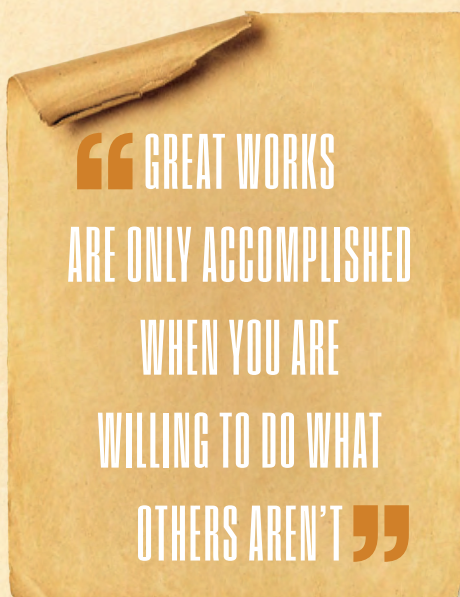
Here’s the bottom line—we all want the RESULTS that hard work can bring, but many are not willing to invest in the RIGORS of work that yield those results. But in Nehemiah (and in your life), the results could not be achieved without the rigors and sacrifice required. **Great works are only accomplished when you are willing to do what others aren’t.**

While preparing to plant our church in 2008, we read many books on church planting. I remember well the feeling of discouragement when the books listed timelines that seemed too far out and details that seemed out of our reach. The

sheer amount of information was simply overwhelming. What we discovered is that **we couldn’t focus on the details of tomorrow but instead needed to focus on what needed to be done today.** And that’s what Nehemiah’s team needed to focus on as well—that **success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.**

A VOICE TO LEAD

Central to Nehemiah’s success was his ability to rally people around a shared vision. By articulating the need for renewal, he inspired the weary and broken to join him in rebuilding their homeland.



People WANT to dream. It’s been said that leaders should always “dream big dreams because small dreams inspire no one.” In our local church setting, we don’t emphasize the utility bills when it comes to giving. No, people want to see that their giving, serving, and sacrifice are resulting in something bigger than that: changed lives and salvation decisions. These are the stories that inspire our church. Recorded at the end of Nehemiah 2 is his plea to the people. And notice he doesn’t inspire them with visions of a

nice home, a comfortable residence, or an easy job. **He inspires them with this message: The hand of my God is upon me, and it’s HIS name that we are lifting up.** It’s not about me, and it’s not about you. It’s all about the good God of Heaven. That’s the message. And friends, that should be our message, too. If your message is Jesus, then you too can stand like Nehemiah. You can be bold in your leadership. You should be strong in your faith. And always remember to be disciplined in your work. If these things are true, dream big. Be faith-filled in your vision.

Here’s the end of the story—and I LOVE it. These words must have strengthened the Jews and discouraged their enemies:

“So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days. And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God” (*Nehemiah 6:15–16*).

Emerging leaders, carry on! Your leadership holds the power to encourage and unite. Let’s allow God to use our hearts, eyes, hands, and voices to be agents for change in our churches, families, and communities.



Pastor Tate Thronson

(Youth Ministries ‘95) and his wife Debbie (Nursing ‘94) have been in full-time ministry together for almost 30 years. Since they were burdened to plant Bible-believing

churches, the Lord has led them to grow a church from meeting in a school building to its own groundbreaking in 2023. God has blessed their ministry with the privilege of financially supporting missionaries, spearheading an annual community outreach basketball tournament, and sending out church-planting families.



BIBLE CONFERENCE

PREACH THE WORD

Each spring, all students, faculty, and staff slow down for a while to focus on the preaching of God's Word.

Whispered prayer hummed across the Crowne Centre auditorium as Pensacola Christian College students clustered together, many on their knees, seeking the Lord to be present and evident during the upcoming days. In anticipation for Bible Conference 2025, student body chaplain Kaleb Alma (Jr., OH) led special songs, personal testimonies, and invited the guest speakers to share words of encouragement.

Following the student gathering, the annual picnic traditionally enjoyed on Eagle Field boasted a Hawaiian luau theme. Ironically contradicted by chilly rains and wind, the event had to be moved indoors. Several departments came together to move all displays, décor, and field activities to the Sports Center. Sheltered from the elements, diners picked up a box lunch. Additional treats were served from The Hut

and The Hub. Island-inspired activities like an inflatable obstacle course, limbo lineup, and photo ops were available.



“Bible Conference is a spiritual reboot,” shared Lee McDaniel (Sr., GA). “The semesters can be taxing on your spirit and your mental health. This is a time where you experience a break from classes and get filled spiritually so that you can be refreshed and encouraged to continue the rest of the semester with the help of the Holy Spirit.”

THE FIRM FOUNDATION

Bible Conference 2025 officially began Wednesday evening with soul-stirring songs and the first message. During the service, College President Troy Shoemaker

addressed those assembled and watching livestream, “At PCC, it is part of our promise to students that we will uphold a biblical worldview; it’s the foundation of everything that we do. It guides our classrooms, daily chapel, Christian Service, prayer groups, and so much more.” Pausing and shifting to address the students, Dr. Shoemaker added from his heart, “I’ve prayed much, and, students in particular, I’ve prayed for you. Because I don’t want you to just hear about a biblical worldview, I want you to go out there and influence the world by it.”

From the quiet moments of heart preparation to the Scripture truths poured out accompanied by selected songs, the three-day Bible Conference provided abundant challenge, encouragement, and renewed passion for God’s Word. The congregational numbers and specials by groups like the Chamber Ensemble and ministerial men’s choir were chosen to capture a gathering dedicated to lifting high the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Victor. To repeat the worship experience, the song collection is available on the PCC website.



The primary focus on each service was these messages (and more) delivered by favorite speakers: Dr. Frank Gagliano from South Haven Baptist Church (Springfield, TN) spoke from his shepherd's heart on the importance of spiritual renewal; in typical expository fashion, Dr. Scott Tewell from Rosedale Baptist Church (Baltimore, MD) revisited Psalm 23 verse by verse; and evangelist Dr. John Van Gelderen (Manchester, MI) challenged listeners to discover revival and reflect Christ with their lives. Pastor Tyler Gillit from Worth Baptist Church (Fort Worth, TX) used the story of Esther to demonstrate the movement from apathy to urgency and then concluded the conference with a charge to stand firm amidst spiritual warfare through the victory we have in Jesus Christ.

APPLICATION OF THE TRUTH

The chance to focus on personal development proved valuable to Mark Zacharias (Jr., FL). "I have enjoyed the many

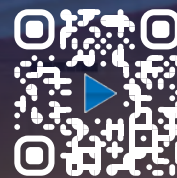
spiritual, philosophical, and theological conversations with friends that were prompted by several of the messages," he shared. Mark attended the afternoon breakout session for the men with Chris Phillips from Selah International Counseling Ministries (SICM). "Phillips did an excellent job defining masculinity and inspiring men to strive to be courageous in the midst of a confused world."

Patti Ring (Sr., GA) loved hearing how the messages were influencing her friends' walk with God. "I talked with many who were so touched by the messages that they want to form new habits, read their Bible more intentionally, and pray more fervently." Patti also benefited from the women's breakout session with Dawn Phillips (SICM). "The title alone piqued my interest ('Quieting the Noise'). I loved her perspective on why it is so important to be grounded in our walks with the Lord [despite the] busyness of daily life that continually captivates our attention."

"Salvation is immediate, but spiritual renewal is a process," declared Dr. Frank

Gagliano during one of his messages. "The child of God seeks continual rejuvenation and renewal, to grow close [to God] again, and to have that fire to share the gospel with others." Spiritual growth is a top priority as thousands of PCC students are guided by the biblical worldview as they prepare for what God has called them to do. And once a year, the College continues the tradition to set aside regular activities to focus on God and His Word.

The atmosphere in the Crowne Centre that had begun in hushed prayer, now echoed with the worshipful voices of all present, raised up high in praise to the ultimate Creator, Redeemer, and Victor: "Hear your people sing, holy, to the King of kings, holy. You will always be holy, holy forever!"



MISS ANY MESSAGES?

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WATCH.PCCI.EDU**



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SEEING IT IN PERSON MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE



COLLEGE GETAWAY



COLLEGE DAYS



EXPLORE PCC



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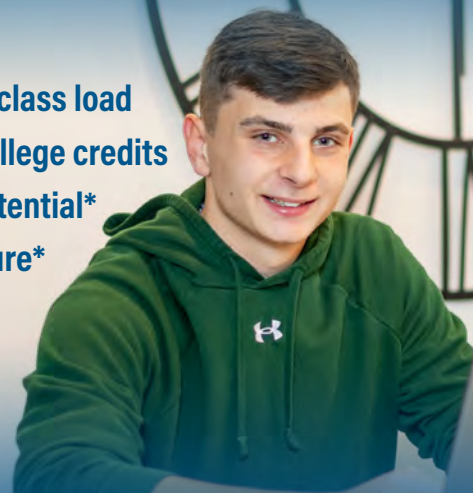


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UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

- 8 Nurses' Pinning & Lamp Lighting Ceremony
- 9 Commencement Ceremonies 2025

SUMMER 2025

Teen Extreme Youth Camps
Check teenextremecamp.com for dates!
NEXT Summer Camps
Check nextsummercamps.com for dates!

AUGUST

- 24 Opening Convocation

This fall, join us as Dr. Kenny Baldwin sets the tone for the new semester by sharing encouraging and challenging messages from God's Word.

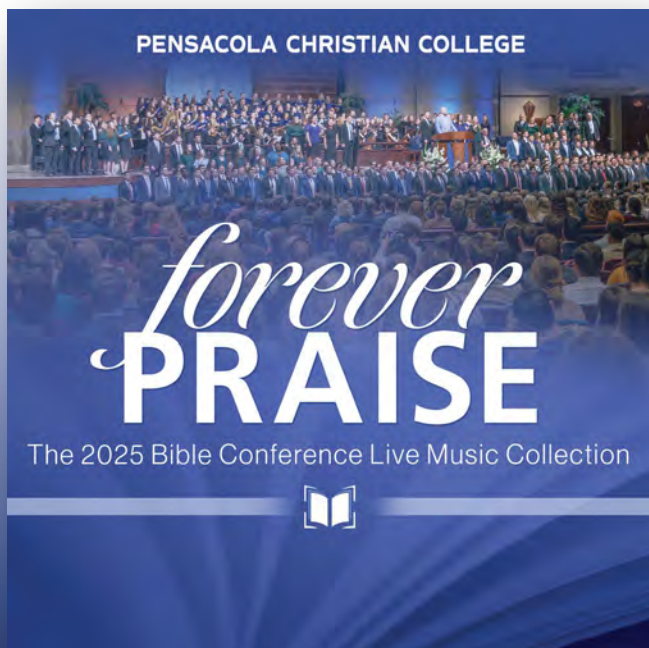
OCTOBER

- 11 Fine Arts Series
- 17-18 Alumni Homecoming 2025

Reminisce with old friends during this special event. Hear from favorite speakers and participate in group events, all while looking back on shared moments together.

NOVEMBER

- 5-7 College Days
- 6 Career Fair
- 6-8 Fine Arts Series



FOREVER PRAISE

The music during Bible Conference 2025 was arranged to lift high the name of Jesus Christ—our Creator, Redeemer, and Victor. The final evening culminated in hundreds of voices singing together "All the Praise," "Whenever I Hear His Name," "Holy Forever," and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."



Learn more at
pcci.edu/media/music!

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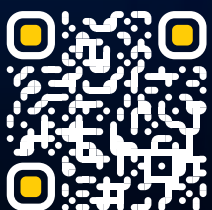
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