PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Spring 2021 pcci.edu/Update



From the **President**

Dr. Trov A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



ring in Northwest Florida brings with it beautiful weather and scenery that I start to miss during the cold winter months. As sunshine fills the skies longer each day and blooms brighten the landscape, a welcome feeling of normalcy takes hold of the senses. In fact, these familar experiences of spring reassure me that God's faithfulness endures, evident even in nature's renewal of life and growth during this season of the year.

The word normal has been in the minds of so many as the country and world—hopes and prepares for a return to a normal way of life. What that normal looks like, only time will tell. What we readily anticipate is that life will return to an environment that's healthy and conducive to building strong relationships and

meaningful interactions with others. Personally, I believe that returning to a normal way of life will increase our thankfulness for the familiar routines that make up our day-to-day living, routines that we perhaps took for granted when they were altered during the past year.

Even more so, when imagining the possibilities of normal life again, I can't help but think of how this applies to the Christian life. If the past year could so easily alter our daily habits and routines, could our personal walk with God have also been affected? Do we need a return to normal in our relationship with Him?

In the Christian life, returning to normal goes by the word revival. When we humbly seek the face of God, He'll show us what we need and will give us

> the grace and faith necessary for a healthy relationship with Him. When we draw nigh to Him, He will draw nigh to us and revive our spiritual walk.

My prayer is that, while our country gets back to normal, together our students, faculty, and staff will stay committed to seeking God's face and desiring His revival work in their lives!





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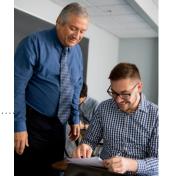
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Connect with Us









OPPORTUMITYY Awaits

Career Services hosts various in-person and virtual events to help students network with career-related experts.

This semester, the constant hum of conversation and laughter has filled MacKenzie Great Hall as students have connected with vendors, educators, and businesses through various events. These events, hosted by PCC's Career Services, included a new Health Professions Career Fair, two Educator Recruitments, and a Career Fair. Geared toward helping seniors and other students talk with field experts and possible employers, each function offered students the opportunity to share their résumés, set up interviews, or simply learn about possible employers.

"I think it's a good networking opportunity," Danielle Janolo (Sr., FL) explained



about the Health Professions Career Fair from February. At this event, nursing and pre-medical students were able to meet with multiple organizations, including Baptist Health Care and Vitas Healthcare. Since the event occurred early in the semester, even seniors scheduled to complete their preceptorships could attend.

Since then, PCC has also hosted two Educator Recruitments and a Career Fair. Almost 100 schools were represented at the Educator Recruitments; and approximately 25 participants including Answers in Genesis, Siemens, Jasper County Sheriff's Office, and Avalex Technologies met with students through Career Fair.

"These events allow students to establish connections with companies [and] ministries that want to partner with PCC students," said Anna Maxwell, coordinator for Alumni and Career Services. "In some cases, this leads to internships and jobs."

"For underclassmen, all of these events give students exposure to em-



■ Educator Recruitment

▲ Career Fair

ployers," added Brad Mullenix, director of Alumni and Career Services. "It is an opportunity for them to ask questions to learn how to boost their employability. What terminology is being used, what experience and certifications are they looking for-knowing this will give them an advantage as they enter the job market."

Elementary Education major Siera Weber (Sr., MT) decided to attend the Educator Recruitment even though she won't finish her second degree in Professional Writing until next May. She explained that she wanted to practice her communication skills as well as "see what private schools feel they need to offer their communities."

"It was interesting seeing the different schools and how they presented the work that they are doing," Siera said. "Some of the schools would highlight the area and the community in which they were located. Some would emphasize their academics. Others would emphasize the ministry aspects of their schools."

Drew Fennell (Sr., OH) said concerning his experience at Educator Recruitment, "There were several recruiters that I had made connections with in previous years that I was excited to see this year. I had an enjoyable time reconnecting with

CAREER SERVICES

some schools as well as meeting many new schools for the first time."

"I think [Educator Recruitment] really helps connections to be made by both the students and the schools," Drew added. "It allows students to connect with many great schools as well as provides opportunities for these schools to visit campus and experience what PCC is all about."

Though all the in-person events were planned to meet specific health guidelines such as social distancing, some students or vendors were not able to meet in person. To accommodate for these limitations, Career Services also organized two virtual events: a Virtual Educator Recruitment and a Virtual Career Fair. Even alumni were encouraged to attend the Virtual Educator Recruitment, which took place in early March through Career Link, the online platform for Career Services. The Virtual Career Fair will take place at the end of March.

"For the virtual fairs, a chat room is available for students to ask the recruiters questions," Mullenix said. "Students can also request a zoom meeting with the recruiters to have a more detailed private discussion about their ministry and needs."

In addition to hosting the Virtual Educator Recruitment and Virtual Career Fair, Career Link helps support students with crafting résumés, researching job opportunities, and preparing for interviews. "Having Career Link in place has been a great help," Mullenix explained. "Resources, résumé reviews, [and] workshop recordings are just some of the things that can be done online."

As students prepare for their upcoming careers or areas of ministry, Career Services works hard to offer resources—whether through in-person events or online support—to help make the transition smoother. Learn more at go.pcci.edu/CareerServices.



Fun, Friends, Formal

Before coming to PCC, many students had yet to know what it's like to experience a formal music or drama event. Enter, stage left: Fine Arts!

pon entering the Dale Horton Auditorium, students, dressed in their best, navigate across the room and settle in their seats. Moments later, the lights dim for prayer before the audience is immersed in a fantastic world carefully crafted behind the curtain.

Fine Arts Series (FAS) events, a tradition at PCC, educate, entertain, and encourage an appreciation for quality productions. Fine Arts programs also provide an outlet for artistic involvement while introducing all students to various genres of music and drama. "PCC has always been about excellence in every-



thing you do," said Josh Hutt, a performing arts faculty member who has participated in eight FAS productions on campus. "By showing the students works that have survived for many years (and in some cases, multiple centuries), it can hopefully show them an example of what excellence is. They survived this long because people keep coming back to them. They keep inspiring new works, even today in 2021."

Whether guest performances or PCCproduced, a variety of Fine Arts have become favorites among audiences over the years, including the Canadian Brass, the Harmonious Strings of São Paulo, The King's Singers, Cyrano de Bergerac, The Mikado, and H.M.S. Pinafore. But audiences have enjoyed new additions sprinkled in. "If you go back in history, we were doing some of the same titles that we do now," said Dr. Amy Bombard, dean of the visual and performing arts department. "But we're infusing new things," she said, listing Scarlet Pimpernel (2015), A Christmas Carol (2016), and Treasure Island (2019) as examples.

Fine Arts events have provided connections and memories for many on campus over the years. Jacob Van Hall, a performing arts faculty member who's participated in four FAS performances since his time as a student, most recently took on Cyrano de Bergerac's titular character. While he enjoys admiring and supporting those who perform, he has also valued the time he's spent backstage. "Fine Arts is so intertwined with my college experience that it's difficult for me to separate the two," he said. "When I think back over my years here, I keep track of which semester is which by the productions that I was involved in at the time. Fine Arts has been a way to make lifelong friends. It has unlocked new opportunities for me in other areas of college life, and it's stretched me to new limits."

Dr. Charlene Monk, a performing arts faculty member, has directed over



45 Fine Arts productions since 1979, with her final one having been Cyrano de Bergerac. "I have worked with [Cyrano de Bergerac] for over 40 years. After

my initial introduction working with the play while in graduate school, I have thoroughly enjoyed every opportunity to direct it. It is basically the same script used in our previous production in 2010 with slight changes for time," she said. "Directing FAS and working with students has been the greatest joy of my years here at PCC. The Lord has been so good to give me the opportunity to use what I love in service for Him."

When working on Fine Arts, several groups work together to bring a production to life, including costumes, sets, lighting, makeup, and sound. Scene shop provides an atmosphere that enhances the production, designing, building, and painting sets that immerse the cast and audience. "I always try to push the boundaries of what we are able to do [for a set]—to take things a little further and challenge us even more," said Ben Davis, scene shop supervisor. "This helps us grow in our abilities, but also keeps things fresh and exciting for the audience. Midsummer Night's Dream (2015) is probably the one set that had the most challenges. Nothing was easy with that production. Our time frame was very tight because the set had to be completed in place on stage. The trees were all built around scaffolding, rope bridges were strung across stage—it was very challenging."

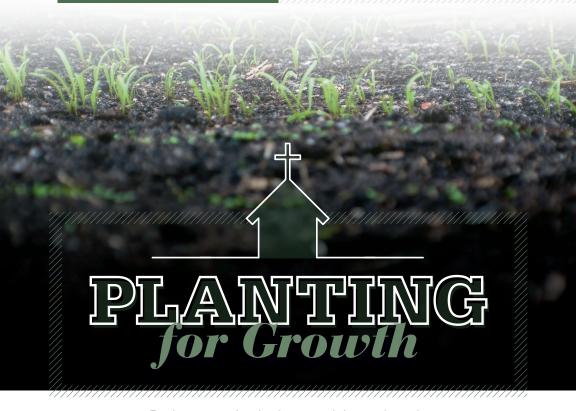
In May, students will enjoy Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest. "I grew up here, and I remember watching



the Fine Arts as a little girl and wanting so badly to be a part of a show," said Liz Thomason, who will be directing the spring FAS. "I dreamed that I'd be on

the stage, but in truth, I'm most happy behind-the-scenes. I've directed a few shows on the graduate level, and I've assisted several directors with their Fine Arts. I'm flattered to direct this classic favorite, and I can't wait to see how the cast and crew help bring this script to life in just a few short months."

Recent Fine Arts performances have included PCCymphony's Storytime at the Symphony and Cyrano de Bergerac. Upcoming performances of The Importance of Being Earnest are scheduled for multiple showings in May. "I appreciate the emphasis PCC puts on exposing us to fine art," said Matthew McIntyre (Sr., GA), who has been cast in three PCCproduced Fine Arts. "College is not just a place to get an academic education; it is also a place to be educated on how to perform in society."



During a pandemic, former minister of music Josh Williams and his wife invest in a church plant.

Thile preaching his first sermon, 12-year-old Josh Williams (Pastoral Ministries '19) thought to himself, "This is the most fun thing I've ever done!" From then on, he couldn't imagine doing anything else. Throughout his youth, Josh watched his father serve as a pastor, youth pastor, and Christian counselor, giving him a vision for what his future could be. "I always wanted to be like my dad—even before I was saved," he said.

Currently, Josh is the Lead Pastor of Crosspoint Baptist Church in Foley. Alabama. For the past ten months, he's been ministering to members through texts, phone calls, home visits, and coffee meetings-in addition to regular services each week. Every day is different, but that's what he loves about pastoring.

Each day involves ministering with

his wife, Devin (Early Childhood '19), praying for the church family, and studying for his Master of Divinity in Biblical Counseling degree.

"God used so many experiences to prepare me for where I am today," Josh said. While he enjoyed preaching since the age of 12, Josh learned how to play multiple instruments, write songs, and sing. His love for music seemed to be leading him to become an evangelist.

When he began college, Josh wanted to be prepared for anything ministryrelated and found that a degree in pastoral ministries was just what he needed.

"I knew that I would not be pastoring other preachers; therefore, I wanted to go to a liberal arts college to develop skills to help me relate to those in the secular field. The leadership and people skills that I developed at PCC are what I use most," he said. "But more than anything, I enjoyed the realness of my teachers at PCC. They were not just teachers. They were mentors and friends," Josh said.

Josh met his wife of a little over a year at college. Devin grew up in the ministry just like he had. Her education degree and parents' example prepared her to serve with Josh. "Watching [my parents], I saw the hard times ministry brings, but I also saw the blessings that come from following the Lord and loving people," Devin said.

During his summers as a PCC student, Josh got a taste of evangelism by traveling to churches, preaching and singing with his siblings. By his senior year, Josh interned at a local church as the minister of music and eventually joined staff in that role. But despite his love for music, Josh continued to have a burning desire to preach more, "I missed the connection that comes from truly being a part of someone's life. I knew that those things only truly came from pastoring, and the desire to preach more kept getting stronger and stronger," he said.

While seeking wisdom from his pastor and trusted advisors, Josh realized his call to pastor a church. He and Devin had the opportunity to choose from three churches—two established with updated facilities and one church plant needing rehabilitation from the ground up. After much prayer, they chose the church plant. "I know that my wife and I are exactly in the center of God's will!" Josh said.

The church plant had originally been an addictions ministry extended from a local church in Foley, Alabama. The program was so well-known in the city that courts would send people to recover at the "addicts' church." But under leadership trials, it fell into debt, was abandoned, and about to close its doors. An interim pastor kept the church from fully closing and was able to segue Josh into the position. Over the past 10 months, the Williams came in and changed the name, constitution, and board, thus creating a brand-new church. They even reduced the debt and added more money to the bank—all in the middle of a pandemic! Starting with a congregation of four, each Sunday since—except for one—they've had a first-time guest. "We had to start from square one to reach the community, gain their trust, while also teaching basic doctrines," the Williams said.

They attribute all they've accomplished to God. Both Josh and Devin continue to grow in the ministry with their daily, personal walks with God. Josh said, "I trust God to give me wisdom and fill me with His Spirit. Serving God is difficult in some ways, but serving God is always worth it. So far, by His grace, I have no regrets!"





GRADUATE STUDIES The Next Step Forward

Whether jumping into graduate school as a recent alumnus or returning as a seasoned employee, the pursuit of further education encourages professional and personal growth. Earning a graduate degree from PCC helps students develop a deeper understanding of concepts and build on what they already know.

taying for my master's [degree] was Preally a seamless transition," said Olivia Foshay (Nursing '18, M.S.N. '20). "The graduate program at PCC prepared me for my current work by stretching and growing me in my weak areas."



Olivia is part of the medical-surgical unit of her small-town hospital in Vermont where she assesses patients, helps them understand their

diagnosis, communicates with physicians for patient status changes, and administers medications. "There are many specific items about the master's program that continue to help me in my professional career. The Advanced Pathophysiology (NU 526) and Pharmacology for Advanced Practice (NU 514) classes gave me a deeper understanding of nursing concepts," she said. "Continuing my education through PCC was one of the best decisions I have made. I already knew people, places, routines, and the ins and outs of PCC after graduating with my bachelor's degree."

After developing an interest in product design, Dustin Lippert (Graphic Design '12, M.A. in Graphic Design '15) chose to pursue a master's degree. While the program focused on a range of design con-



cepts, it provided a space for him to experiment under professionals and explore new techniques. "The number one thing I'm grateful for at PCC was the

conversations with my instructors who taught me how to think conceptually," he

said. "When you pair conceptual thinking with scalable ideas, an entirely new world opens up in the industry. People take notice of what you bring to the table. They want you at the table."



As director of technology and digital development at Archer Malmo, a full-service advertising agency, Fernando Higuera (Marketing '08, M.B.A. '10)

oversees all development from the agency, whether internal or external. "The M.B.A. helped me expand on skills that are my day-to-day, preparing pricing and resource forecast models for the service industry (consulting and digital agency). It also helped to consider a multivariate approach to solving problems and not act from a single side of the issue," he said. "It felt like an extension of my undergrad experience."

The newest addition to PCC's graduate programs, an M.B.A. with an Information Technology Management specialization, builds on several of the learning outcomes that had equipped Fernando Higuera well for his professional career. "With technology changing so quickly, implementing and applying technology within organizations requires project management skills," said Dr. Mike Geary, chair of the engineering and computer science department. "Determining what stakeholders want and delivering a solution that meets their needs along with meeting budget and time constraints is a must. Our program provides the foundational business components as part of the M.B.A. and adds to that data

analytics, information security, and project management skills."

Eric Higdon (Advertising, Public Relations '14; M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction '16), a lead web developer at Answers in Genesis, was encouraged by faculty members to consider earning a graduate degree. While he hadn't initially considered it, he also wasn't sure what God wanted next for him. "Through prayer and counsel from others, I came to the conclusion that the extra two years of study could be beneficial to my personal growth, even



if not my career," he said. "My bachelor's degree is not in education, but my master's is. So there was a lot that was completely new to me. In the end, the

reward was personal and professional growth that is priceless."

Looking back at his graduate experience, Eric is thankful for the training he received, especially in the areas of interpersonal relationships and communication. "Though I'm not in a field that perfectly aligns with my graduate studies, I use the skills I learned daily, not only in my professional life, but also as a foster parent, which means that my children usually have a lot of catching up to do when it comes to education," said Eric. "You never know what God is preparing you for right now, so remain faithful and trust Him to lead you."

For these alumni, higher education provided the building blocks they needed to better prepare them for excellence. Learn more about our program offerings at go.pcci.edu/GradStudies.

"Continuing my education through PCC was one of the best decisions I have made. I already knew people, places, routines, and the ins and outs of PCC after graduating with my bachelor's degree."

HIGHLIGHTS



Bible Conference 2021: A Time to Refocus

For a few days this February, the PCC family focused their attention wholly on God's Word during the 47th annual Bible Conference.

In the Crowne Centre during a mid-morning service, audiences listened intently to the oratorical and rhetorical delivery of Dr. Raymond Barber. The seasoned statesman with over 70 years of ministry experience directed listeners to a Scripture passage, only to pause and remind them of a powerful truth. "Oh, did I mention? When you open the Bible, you open the mind of God," he said, flipping to his sermon text. "Let's see what He's thinking about."

This year, Bible Conference welcomed guest speakers Dr. Rusty Smith of Mikado Baptist Church (GA), Dr. Johnny Pope of Christchurch Baptist Fellowship (TX), and Dr. Raymond Barber of Worth Baptist Church (TX). The conference also included messages from Dr. Tim Zacharias, assistant pastor of Campus Church, and Dr. Jeff Amsbaugh, a PCC and PTS faculty member.

"There's something unique and spiritually edifying when you come away from your studies and look wholly at what God has to say through the preaching of His Word," said Dr. Troy Shoemaker, president of the College.

Services were offered at early and late options to allow for social distanc-

ing, and the student body still enjoyed the special sense of camaraderie commonly shared with the conference. "I like that [Bible Conference] draws you away from being so focused on school, and it reconnects the whole school together as an assembly, a body of Christ," said Keirstin Turnquist (So., WI). "It's a time of fellowship. It really impacts your hearts and your minds, and I just love that so much."

Students also appreciated a time of recreation and relaxation at the Bible Conference Picnic, during scheduled split times on Tuesday and Wednesday. Following the theme "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," students enjoyed catching bags of peanuts tossed by roaming attendants and hearing the brass chamber ensemble play nostalgic songs. Across Eagle Field, they visited booths set up with various games while others enjoyed a leisurely trolley ride around campus.

After Bible Conference concluded, students finished the shortened week of classes, returning to their familiar routines with renewed perspectives and personal goals. Watch this year's messages and listen to past years' messages at go.pcci.edu/BibleConference2021.



Alumna Elected to NC Court of Appeals

For the last 18 years, Judge April Wood (Prelaw '94) has served as a District Court Judge in North Carolina, her home state. In November 2020, Judge Wood earned an elected position to the Court of Appeals in the North Carolina Judicial District 22B, where she joins as one of fifteen judges.

After graduating from PCC, Judge Wood attended Regent University and graduated with her Juris Doctorate in 1997, and passed the North Carolina Bar exam in the same year.

In 2001, she was certified as a Family Financial Mediator, completing the Dispute Resolution Program in 2001. She was first elected to the district court bench a year later, where she presided over cases covering domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, child custody and support, equitable distribution of marital property, criminal activity, traffic matters, and other civil law disputes.

Apart from her work, Judge Wood has also supported several of North Carolina's local civic organizations, including Cancer Services of Davidson County, The Dragonfly House Children's Advocacy Center in Mocksville, and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program in local elementary schools.

She has continued to serve where she can, driven by her goal to leave her community in better shape than how she found it.

Upcoming **Events**

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

PCC Commencement

for families and friends of graduating students

May 13 & 14

pcci.edu/graduation

Teen Extreme Youth Camp

for grades 7-12, including class of 2021 graduates

June 14-18 • June 21-25 • June 28-July 2 July 12-16 • July 19-23

> (850) 969-1555 TeenExtremeCamp.com

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

Seminary/Graduate **Summer Sessions**

Challenging studies to strengthen your ministry or career foundation

June 21-Aug. 9

1-877-PTS-GRAD (1-877-787-4723) pcci.edu/GraduateStudies

Summer Camps

for grades 9-12, including class of 2021 graduates

June 28-Aug. 6

(850) 969-1690 YouthOutreachCamps.com

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

Connections Stories from PCC

Focusing on Pharmacy and Family

Dr. Wesley Robbins enjoyed a wide-ranging career in pharmacy and management spanning more than thirty years. Since retiring from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), he has been putting his expertise to use differently—teaching natural science courses at PCC.

Taking time after high school to work in carpentry and the U.S. Coast Guard, Dr. Wesley Robbins went through college as an older student. After having completed his internships and earning a doctorate in pharmacy, he began working full-time in the Department of Veteran Affairs, starting as a clinical pharmacist before transitioning into management positions that stretched to the Central Office in Washington, D.C.

As he traveled to different VA hospital locations across the country, Dr. Robbins first learned of PCC during his time in Prescott, Arizona, when a Proclaim Ministry Team visited his church. It wasn't until much later that his family finally visited Florida to see what PCC was all about. "We drove from the Dallas area for College Days, and we were very impressed with just everything. The campus, student interactions, just the whole thing," he recalled. "Everything was what we would've wanted for our girls for their college experience, and the Lord worked all that out."

Eventually, all of Dr. Robbins's daughters graduated from the College and began settling in the Pensacola area, but with his wife Kathy and him still in Dallas, the close-knit family found the separation difficult. His daughter Shannon Johnson, a natural sciences faculty member, was the first to encourage him to consider

teaching at PCC. "I thought it would be a good fit for Dad," she said. "He was getting close to retirement from the VA, and he's not the type of person ready to be out of the workforce entirely."

Dr. Robbins retired as the director of the Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy in 2017 and, over the last four years, has taught a variety of classes, from Principles of Biology (BY 105) to Basics of Pharmacy Practice (SC 242). While Dr. Robbins has enjoyed teaching and assisting his students in grasping new concepts, he and Kathy have also enjoyed being near their daughters and spending time with their grandchildren.

Retirement might mean a time of rest for some, but for Dr. Robbins, retirement has meant being free to serve God and support his students in the best way he can.

"Being able to live and enjoy your Christian faith with everyone that you work with is a joy," he said. "It is also wonderful to share and hopefully help build the faith of those students that have never lived or worked daily in an openly Christian environment. PCC is undoubtedly a very unique place and it provides a place for everyone here—not just the students—to live a life that the Lord has set out before us in His Word."

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

· Cybersecurity · Mechanical Engineering

PCC Staff

- · Auto Mechanic · Carpenter · Chief Engineer · Director of Advertising/Marketing · Electrician
- · Electronics Engineer · Employee Development Coordinator · IT Development Specialist
- · Plumber · Retail Dining Manager · Video Editor

Abeka

- · Brand Manager · Business Analyst · Copy Editor · Customer Service Supervisor
- Editors/Writers (All Subjects) Press Operator Textbook Field Representative (Mid-Atlantic)

For More Openings...

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



Scholarship Fund Giving

PCC gratefully acknowledges four new scholarships:

Gellos Memorial Scholarship Puzzle Scholarship Steven and Marty Ainsworth Music Education Scholarship Dr. and Mrs. Karl Stelzer II Timothy 2:2 Scholarship

Visit pcci.edu/Giving for more information about the Scholarship Fund.

Planned Giving

It is often difficult to make a large donation during one's lifetime, yet many would like to make a significant contribution to PCC. You may consider a bequest to Pensacola Christian College.

Visit pcci.edu/PlannedGiving for information about estate planning. For information about both the Scholarship Fund and Planned Giving, call (850)478-8496, ext. 2327.

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