

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
UPDATE

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Celebrating
COMMENCEMENT

pg. 4 ►

From the **President**

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof:
and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

—Ecclesiastes 7:8

Ecclesiastes reminds us that the end of a thing is better than the beginning; and patience is a major factor contributing to how we perceive events. This past academic year has demanded creative ingenuity, planning, and a great deal of patience. Most importantly, it has required God's provision and protection for Pensacola Christian College.

Looking back, it is clear to see how faculty and staff rose to the challenges presented by new operating procedures and increased levels of service. Every task seemed to require additional consideration and higher levels of attention. Not only did the team survive, our campus community thrived in fulfilling the mission God has given us.

Students, while inconvenienced by necessary health precautions, completed their academic studies and even found ways to serve each other and the local community. Throughout the year, I repeatedly thanked the Lord for the way students looked past themselves to see the needs of others and, in so doing, reflected the loving kindness of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

At the final chapel of the year, I told our student body, "I never want to go through another year like this one; but if we had to do it, I'm glad we got to go through it together: with each other and our Lord."

So, with thankfulness, we are at the end of the academic year. I am already eager to start over again next fall with intentions toward full academic and co-curricular engagement and events. Next year will be full of new adventures and opportunities as PCC continues to empower the next generation to influence their world for Christ. ■



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MINISTERIAL SEMINAR

Supplying the Tools

On Thursdays before noon, a special group gathers together in the Dale Horton Auditorium. Before their class begins, they'll pray, sing a hymn and a special chorus, and then start adding insightful notes to an ever-growing collection they'll be referring back to for years to come.

The young men preparing for ministry take Ministerial Seminar (PR 101–402), consisting of a lab and a lecture hour, each semester. The class is designed to enrich and develop the students' background for Christian service, to provide practical ministry training, and to give them the opportunity to learn under experienced men of God.

The ministerial students also take time during class to pray for areas of the country where pastors and church plants are needed, as well as for existing churches to be strengthened in their effectiveness reaching people with the gospel.

Each year, these men have been able to sharpen their skills in a new area or build upon a previous lesson, preparing them to be used of God in the capacity He has called them to. "You get to sit

down and glean from the wisdom of men who are years down the road you're on. You get many different preachers from different backgrounds, areas, and ages telling you the same thing from different angles. It teaches you to consider more options and seek counsel," said Chris Montgomery (Sr., TN). "This class has by far been the most helpful class in preparing me for future ministry, strengthening my current ministries, and strengthening my walk with God."

For **Andrew Butner** (Sr., NC), a transfer student from a Bible college, the class has been greatly enhanced by the guest pastors who have spoken in ministerial lecture, such as Greg Mutsch, Rusty Smith, Tyler Gillit, Frank Gagliano, Raymond Barber, Pete Folger, and Dave



Goforth. “This class is definitely unique to PCC,” he said. “Many other schools only offer homiletic classes to practice preaching,” he said. “In lecture, Ministerial Seminar is a class where we, preachers in training, can glean the wisdom of other men in ministry and pastoral positions. This class has allowed me to see the reality of ministry.”

Dr. Dan Troutman of the Bible faculty instructs a ministerial lab on Tuesdays, which counterparts Thursday’s lecture hour. “While the lectures are practical in a broad range of potential ministries, the labs are primarily focused on preaching and presenting the Word of God to an audience,” he said. “Labs are more ‘hands on.’ These are focused on specific preaching skills, and the men benefit from the experience of faculty who share biblical truth ‘for a living.’”

As their college career progresses, many of the ministerial men can put what they learned in the classroom into practice in the church. “We go to every Campus Church ministry to observe in order to see what it would take to run a big ministry,” said Chase Williams (Sr., GA). “Then we intern in one of the ministries the following semester.”

This semester, the seniors of Ministerial Seminar spent an hour of their class time in the Swim Center with Dr. Jeff Redlin, Campus Church pastor.



There, he went over the mechanics of baptism. “The lesson was a very practical experience,” said **Daniel McManus** (Sr., VA). “Pastor Redlin taught us about baptism and how to explain it to the people of our [future] church. We then got to practice baptizing each other. He walked us through each step, making sure that we were accurately practicing the ordinance. It has been so helpful to learn from an experienced pastor about how to handle circumstances that I have not yet experienced.”

Having taken the class as a student, **Pastor Redlin** has always anticipated speaking to and instructing the ministerial men over the



years, especially since returning to serve at Campus Church. This year, he took them through a series on finances in the church, but he’s also covered youth ministry, qualifications for pastoral ministry, church discipline, and pastoral counseling. “It is one of the very special privileges of serving as pastor of Campus Church to be able to interact with our ministerial guys,” he said. “They’re going to influence those people who are influencing their world. They’re going to be standing in pulpits, all across the states, and literally all across the world.”

“We’re trying to invest in them some necessary tools,” Pastor Redlin continued. “My dad always said, ‘The right tool makes all the difference.’ Sometimes you have this obscure tool in your toolbox and you think, What am I ever going to use that for? But when you need that tool, and you have it, that tool makes all the difference.” ■



COMMENCEMENT(S)

Time to Celebrate

As the spring semester concluded, graduates dressed in that familiar cap and gown briskly made their way toward the Crowne Centre for one of four special ceremonies. For friends and families of the 2021 graduates to enjoy the Forty-Sixth Commencement ceremonies in person, Commencement was adjusted for four events over two days.

Over 950 degrees were conferred upon undergraduate, seminary, and graduate students who represented 49 states and 32 foreign countries or territories. Thirty students completed the requirements for two majors, and over 140 of the class of 2020 graduates invited to return took part in these events.

Students were honored with all the pomp and circumstance their accomplishments deserved. On Thursday, May 13, students earning degrees in Nursing and Arts & Sciences concentrations were conferred degrees in two separate Commencement ceremonies. Professional Studies and Biblical Studies, Visual & Performing Arts, and Graduate and Seminary concentrations were conferred degrees during ceremonies on Friday, May 14.



Campus Church Pastor Jeff Redlin gave the benediction during the Commencement Ceremony.



Jared Black returned to walk as a 2020 graduate.



COMMENCEMENT(S)



President Troy Shoemaker offering congratulations to a student



The College also awards the President's Citation of Merit to two students who, in the opinion of the administration, are outstanding graduates who embody the mission and purpose of the College through their personal character and values. This year, that award was presented to Madison Schrock (*Legal Office Administration*) and Chris Montgomery (*Pastoral Ministries*).

Receiving an honorary doctorate from PCC is an expression of respect and appreciation from the College as a Christian academic institution to those who have displayed exceptional leadership and service in their ministry vocation. These degrees were given to Joseph Bradley Edmondson (*Pastoral Ministries '01*), who was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Divinity, and Francis James Sherwin III, who was conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Science.

Now, new chapters await! With degrees conferred, awards received, and tassels turned, these graduates are ready to venture out and influence their worlds for Christ. ■

"It's a great honor, and I'm really glad that they invited us back [for Commencement]. I felt like they really cared about us."

—Megan Jones, 2020 grad, on getting to walk with the class of 2021



LEADING *where Needed*



Nathan Smith and Christa Wei Smith stay flexible as they serve in various roles at EUCON International School and EUCON International University in Saipan.

On a small island in the western Pacific Ocean, a group of teachers work diligently to make a difference for Christ. Through classroom instruction, organized programs, and extracurricular activities, the faculty at EUCON International School (EIS), a Christian school located on the island of Saipan, seek opportunities to point students to a wonderful, creative God.

Two of these faculty members, Nathan Smith (*M.S. '15*) and Christa Wei Smith (*M.S. '11*), have stepped in to help where needed. As they live out the school's motto, "Provides Light for Learning," Nathan and Christa have taken on leadership responsibilities both in the classroom and as administrative staff.

Started almost twenty-five years ago by Christa's parents, Christian and Judy Wei, EIS has been a light for many students from various countries, including China, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, and the United States. As a boarding school, EIS often houses students in seventh grade or above from China; other international students live

with guardians off campus or with their families in the community—a community which has overall been very accepting of the school's Christian beliefs and training.

Not only has the community been supportive of the school, which is one of six private Christian K–12 schools in Saipan, but it has grown because of EIS. "We have had several families move to Saipan so that their children can attend our school," Nathan said. "They see it as beneficial for the entire family." The main reason they seem to come, though, is that they value sending their children to a Christian school that does not have to conform to various government restrictions; because Saipan is a commonwealth of the United States, it has many of the same freedoms that U.S. states have.

With a large student population and a rigorous academic curriculum, teachers at EIS stay busy. "Working at EUCON requires one to be used in many different areas at once and to learn many different skills," explained Christa, who began

working at the school in 2010. “In the ten years that I’ve been working here, I’ve taught everything from kindergarten to courses at the university level.”

While Christa works as the Dean of Academics at EUCON International University, a closely related ministry to EIS, in addition to teaching, Nathan’s main responsibility has recently been the assistant principal at EIS. “I teach the junior high Bible class, then move into my administrative duties,” Nathan said. While his responsibilities vary from day to day, he can often be found talking with struggling students, completing classroom observations, or meeting with parents outside regularly scheduled Parent Teacher Conference times.

“While I still do see the students and still do have opportunities to influence them for Christ, my priority has shifted toward supporting our faculty and influencing them,” Nathan said. “It has been an adjustment, but now I am enjoying more and more this new role of supporting and influencing our teachers so that they can better teach and influence their students for Christ.”

“Truly, my master’s degree (and the classes I have taken so far for my doctoral degree) has helped me in so many ways,” Nathan added. “My classes helped me to become a better teacher. Now that I am in the administration, I can pass on the knowledge I have gained at PCC to all our teachers.”

Christa also acknowledged how valuable her education through PCC has been to her. “I think my master’s degree from PCC has been the turning point in my teaching career,” Christa said. “At PCC, I learned not only how to improve my own teaching skills but also how to instruct others to improve their teach-

ing abilities. PCC has helped me in my administrative duties by providing me with the resources and skills I need to be confident in guiding others.” One way that Christa is specifically able to help others with their classroom instruction is through teaching education classes at the university.

While the past year has been difficult for many, Christa is thankful that both the university and EIS have continued to be able meeting in person. “God’s hand in our ministry can be vividly seen simply by the fact that we are able to function fully within the government restrictions placed upon us.”

Nathan has also noticed how God worked in the school during the past year. “I remember showing up to class

on the first day [after Christmas break in January 2020], and we were all wearing masks. It was a very strange time, but out of fear and adversity

comes an excellent opportunity to share the gospel and talk to all these young people [about] the peace and security that comes from having a relationship with Jesus Christ,” Nathan said. “Here at EUCON we saw Christian students re-dedicating themselves to the Lord, and we saw students who were unbelievers coming to Christ for salvation.”

The term EUCON means “excellent light,” and sharing light with others through education is the focus of both EUCON International University and EIS. “I enjoy watching the students grow and develop academically and also spiritually. Some of my students that I’ve taught in 3rd grade are now in 12th grade,” Christa said. “It’s always encouraging to have students who desire to learn and study and improve.” ■

“I think my master’s degree from PCC has been the turning point in my teaching career.”



Cell & Molecular Biology

Noticing the Small Things

Natural science faculty help students prepare for more specific fields of research and graduate work through a new cell and molecular biology concentration.

This past fall, PCC students had the opportunity to pursue a new course of study—a concentration in cell and molecular biology. This major “empowers and equips students to enter graduate school and careers across a diverse range of disciplines,” said **Dr. Sebastian Spencer**, a faculty advisor for this new major. “Students who pursue training in cell and molecular biology will be well positioned to impact and influence their world in truly dynamic ways.”



According to the PCC 2021–2022 Catalog, the purpose of this new concentration, which is part of the natural sciences major, is “for the student to develop an understanding of the design and function of the cell while appreciating the complexity of that design as a fingerprint of our Creator.” This dual ap-

proach is one aspect of this new concentration that is so valuable to students.

“I have especially enjoyed taking Genetics and Cell Biology, two of the upper-level biology courses I have been able to take in my sophomore year,” said **Rachel Hexamer (Jr., DE)**, who switched from a general biology concentration to the new



cell and molecular biology concentration. “Learning about such complex processes has deepened my love for the Creator who engineered such design in the simplest cell.”

While the cell and molecular biology concentration is closely related to the biology concentration, the two degrees have some key differences.

“Since both degrees are biology based, initially the courses required are very similar,” explained Dr. Aresia

Watson, assistant chair for the natural sciences department. “However, where the general biology classes provide a broad-based biology learning experience that includes the basics of cell biology and other fundamental biology studies such as botany, zoology, and ecology, the cell and molecular biology classes provide a more concentrated study in that area of biology.”

Spencer added, “The focus of the new cell and molecular biology concentration is to delineate specific biological and chemical processes within individual cells.”

Some of the recently introduced courses for this concentration include BY 342 Developmental Biology, which deals with developmental genetics and human developmental biology, and BY 449 Molecular Biology, which offers students the opportunity to perform in-depth studies of nucleic acid structure, the structure and function of proteins, and the regulation of gene expression.

Faculty have worked diligently to begin offering this degree for PCC students, knowing that it has been an especially relevant field of study in recent years. “While there are some biologists who still do significant field research, even studies in botany and zoology are now often performed at the cellular if not the molecular level at least,” Watson explained. “Biomedical research is an incredibly large area of research, and our students are being well prepared to step into this field.”

Angela Cioroch (*Sr., Canada*), who also



changed her degree last fall, has been happy with the new concentration so far. “The directed course sequence is really special because that means my studies are narrowed down from the start,” Angela said. “Also, that means there’s a decent bit of overlap between

some classes, and that’s helped to solidify my understanding of the material and keep the concepts fresh in my mind. In addition, the lab-based work is helpful in applying the book knowledge I gained in lectures.”

“Each class contributed (in its own way) to shaping me as a person and preparing me for my future career goals,” said Angela. “The lab component especially solidified my understanding of different procedures, their purposes, and their applications. In biotechnology, which I’m taking this semester, we’ve already done western blotting, gel electrophoresis, ELISA, PCR—all foundational and common techniques within applied and experimental science (especially in biomedical fields). If I were to walk into any lab right now, I would feel pretty confident just starting up on these procedures.”

“My current major is special since it is smaller than the general biology major, and it is so exciting to meet other students who chose the same path as me,” Rachel added.

Even with her switch in majors, Rachel expects to be able to graduate when she had originally planned to. “All of my teachers have been so encouraging as I changed my major and took on more challenging courses, and I am grateful for the wisdom they have imparted to me as I determine what to do after I graduate,” Rachel said. ■

Career Possibilities

- Research Scientist
- Biotech Industry
- Science Policy
- Biochemist
- Pharmaceutical Industry
- Science Writing/Publishing



Sarah Calhoun,
receptionist and
Operations Manager
1971 to 1988



John Collier, current Operations Manager



Paul Baker,
first traveling
representative—
outside original
studio, 1975



WPCS Celebrates 50 Years

Rejoice Radio's flagship station, WPCS-FM,
celebrates its golden anniversary!

In the early 1960s, Arlin Horton (PCC's founder and first president) saw a need for Christian radio in the upper Gulf Coast. After much prayer and dedication, on June 21, 1971, WPCS signed “on the air,” operating seventeen hours a day as an educational, noncommercial nonprofit.

The station has seen a great deal of change over its 50 years of operation. Originally, *Rejoice Radio* broadcasted on 89.3 FM from an empty elementary classroom at Pensacola Christian School. In 1987, the station frequency changed to 89.5 FM, and the studio moved to its current location on PCC's campus the following year.

The Lord blessed WPCS with excellent music and programming. And from those humble beginnings, *Rejoice Radio* was born and continues to spread joy from 44 stations in the U.S., including its two newest stations in Greensboro and Milledgeville, Georgia. In addition to broadcasting, *Rejoice Radio* now offers five streaming stations online (Rejoice.org). The Lord has been faithful to supply *Rejoice Radio's* needs over the

years through faithful donations from listeners.

“Over the years, I have received letters and phone calls from people who tell us how a particular song or message spoke to them just at the time of their need,” said **Tonita Ohman**, who has



been the program director since 2010. “Especially in this last year where so many people have been in lockdown because of the COVID crisis, more people

have shared how *Rejoice Radio* was such a comfort and companion to them and gave them hope while reminding them that God is still in control. As much as I have hoped to be a blessing to our listeners, they have been a blessing to me.”

“God has used the music of WPCS to help me and encourage me at the times I need it most,” said Mike Gellos, who worked with the station from 1974–1981. “I hope WPCS stays true to the Word and will help edify believers and be a light to the lost.”

For station listings, visit rejoice.org/
Update. ■



Summit Yearbook: Grow Together

Near the spring semester's conclusion, PCC students were invited to pick up their own copy of this year's *Summit* yearbook. With its deep green and gold cover, the 2020–2021 *Summit* highlights the theme “Grow Together.”

Stephanie Hansen (*Sr., IN*), an assistant editor, explained, “This year's *Summit* yearbook focuses on how students have grown together in every aspect of life at PCC—from cultivating friendships with other students to joining together to participate in community outreach.”

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the *Summit* staff worked diligently to make the yearbook a success. Whether through extending the distribution time for students to offer more opportunity for social distancing or through rethinking group photos, the *Summit* team, led by Mrs. Esther Hallman, has been flexible and innovative.

While the book does include changes, it also retains many of the normal sections and activities. As usual, students can look back on favorite events and candid photos of friends. This year's *Summit* was dedicated to Dr. Dale Adkins, director of Student Care and a well-loved chapel speaker.

“I hope *Summit* will show the realities of what we had to overcome this past year while focusing on the joy we had and the growth we made,” said Zach Jewell (*Sr., MI*), who was also on the yearbook staff. ■

Upcoming Events

Online Summer Seminar for Christian school administrators and teachers

July 27–30

850-478-8496, ext. 2828
SummerSeminarInfo.com

PCC Opening Weekend for family and friends of students

August 27–29

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

Alumni Homecoming for PCC grads and their families

October 22–23

850-478-8496, ext. 2828
pcci.edu/Homecoming21

Ladies Celebration Spiritual retreat with God's Word at Camp o' the Pines

Nov. 4–6

850-478-8496, ext. 2828
LadiesCelebration.com

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

Nov. 17–19

1-800-PCC-INFO (1-800-722-4636)
pcci.edu/CollegeDays

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

Connections

Stories from PCC

Highlighting the Foundation

Dr. Aresia Watson, assistant chair for the natural sciences department, has taught at PCC for over twenty years. Through her classes, she challenges students to learn more about both God's creation and the Creator Himself.



For those who know Dr. Aresia Watson, it's easy to sense her passion for sharing her love of God's creation with students. For twenty-two years, Dr. Watson has invested time and energy in making her instruction excellent, whether teaching numerous college classes at PCC or volunteering with first- and second-grade Sunday school.

"When I see my students come to an understanding of the material, or when I see them personalize the importance of recognizing that the foundation of science, Christianity, and life itself is God the Creator, I am always excited and encouraged," Dr. Watson said.

As a college instructor, Dr. Watson spends much of her time researching, preparing lectures, meeting with students outside of class, and—of course—teaching. During the semester, she typically teaches a variety of biology classes as well as *Origins* (CR 370), a class required for all students obtaining their bachelor's degree.

"I am constantly amazed at the intricate designs that God has placed within creation—designs that are so complex they defy the ideas of gradual evolution of the various kinds of life over vast eons of time," she said. "While I do want my students to have an academic understanding of the various topics in biology, my deeper desire is that my students stand in awe of who God is as Creator

and desire a deeper relationship with the One who made them and has a plan and purpose for them."

Dr. Watson's students can sense her enthusiasm for God's creation as she mentions what she has recently been learning herself or as she brings in examples to show in class.

Nancy Osorio Boquin (*Jr., Honduras*) said concerning her experience with *Origins*, "Dr. Aresia Watson is a great teacher. As a student, I notice that she cares for us; she tries to make the class easy to understand, but still teaches us all the information."

Though *Origins* is a rigorous class, Dr. Watson is committed to helping students realize the value of what they are learning. Nancy explained, "I have never put so much thought into the scientific evidence since I was raised in a Christian home; she has helped me understand that [it] is important to know all the information—that way I'm able to help others who are in need of looking for Jesus."

Seeing students grasp the connection between knowing about Creation and sharing about the Creator has been one of Dr. Watson's favorite aspects of teaching.

She said, "There is truly no greater joy than to know that my students have developed a solid biblical worldview as the foundation for their lives and are willing to share its truth and eternal hope with others." ■

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
- Office Assistant • Plumber • Retail Dining Manager

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.

REJOICE RADIO

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Down-home gospel music



Year-round music celebrating the seasons

Listen worldwide at Rejoice.org/Update

Scholarship Fund Giving

Whether you have a friend or loved one at PCC, or you're just a friend of the College and want to help out, giving is simple. You can support the PCC scholarship program or even create your own new 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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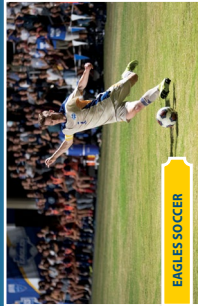
PCC ALUMNI

Homecoming

OCT. 22-23



ALUMNI DINNER



EAGLES SOCCER



DOLPHIN CRUISE

REMINISCe and RECONNECT with friends!

pcci.edu/Homecoming21