

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

UPDATE

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HOLIDAY Happenings

pg. 4 ▶



▲ Surprise guest, Emmet Cahill, performed with PCC music groups for Christmas Lights Celebration

From the President

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker @PresidentPCC



This fall, during the annual Alumni Homecoming, we were thrilled to host nearly 500 guests, many who had not been on campus since their graduation years ago. Alumni participated in several events during the weekend and had the chance to enjoy campus while connecting with each other. Seeing them interact with their children was an unforgettable experience.

On Friday evening, we held a relaxing reception with appearances by three very special guests—Dr. Greg Mutsch, Dr. Joel Mullenix, and PCC founder and president emeritus Dr. Arlin Horton. Their presence, along with their interaction with alumni, reminded me of the rich heritage that God has blessed us with here at PCC.

Throughout PCC's nearly five decades of ministry, God has raised up individuals who have given of themselves to advance the cause of Christ in this place. Their dedication and sacrificial service over the years continues to influence the PCC community today through the pass-

ing down of foundational biblical principles from one generation to the next.

For a scriptural model, a good example of this can be found in the testimony of Paul as he mentored Timothy and then encouraged his pupil to train others: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2).

This life-upon-life investment, with God's care and blessing, can do incredible things in the lives of all those involved, not to mention in the world. It is no understatement to say that the world can be turned upside down as God's servants invest His Word in the hearts and minds of those who come behind, who can in turn train others also.

In the busyness of this season, may we remember to be intentional in our interactions with the next generation. And may we be thankful for those who slowed down and took the time to invest in us. ■



Dr. Arlin Horton

Dr. Joel Mullenix

Dr. Greg Mutsch



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Multiplying Worship — Alumni Plant Churches —

God called and prepared these ministerial alumni to establish new churches and cultivate growth.

Dearborn, Michigan, is known as the hometown of Henry Ford and the Ford Motor Company and has been named a Tree City USA for its tree-infused quality of life for the past 30 years. But this city is perhaps better known as the North American Islamic headquarters. With approximately 14 mosques and institutions within 24.5 sq. miles, the Islamic community continues to increase. Often when a local church closes its doors, the abandoned building is transformed into a new mosque or Islamic institute.

But in July 2021, a brand-new church was planted in Dearborn, spearheaded by **Pastor Josh Levesque** (*Pastoral Ministries '15*). As he followed the Lord's calling in his life, he attributes a portion of his prepa-

ration to his training at Pensacola Christian College.

Ministerial students at PCC take the Church Planting Seminar to analyze the biblical and historical models of starting a new church. "Throughout the semester, experienced church planters come in to speak to the men on the 'how-tos' as well as identify parts of the country where the needs are great," said Dr. Dale Adkins, the church ministries coordinator. The course covers essential topics ranging from purchasing property to founding documents to finances.

The church planting seminars and ministerial classes Levesque took planted seeds that led to this new church plant in Dearborn. "Being a Christian Ser-

“From Student Body to Christian Service to prayer leader—the leadership and people skills I developed at PCC are what I’ve used the most.”

vice leader, collegian chaplain, Sunday school director, and residence assistant were some of the best training and experiences I received at PCC,” he said. “Each of these positions prepared me for different aspects of pastoral ministry and now for church planting.”



Wanting to be equipped to do anything in ministry, **Josh Williams** (*Pastoral Ministries '19*) chose to study pastoral ministries to be equipped with Bible-intensive training and hands-on service opportunities. Josh traveled to many churches to sing and preach each summer, and during his senior year, he served in a local church as a minister of music. “I wanted a liberal arts degree to develop relational skills with those in the secular field,” he said. “From Student Body to Christian Service to prayer leader—the leadership and people skills I developed at PCC are what I’ve used the most.”

While seeking wisdom from his pastor and mentors, Josh realized God’s leading to undertake what used to be an addictions ministry in Foley, AL, and transform it into a new church. In 10 months and in the middle of a pandemic, the congregation steadily increased attendance. Josh loves how pastoring connects ministry with being a part of someone’s life. “I know that my wife and I are in the center of God’s will,” he said.



“Leadership begins with who you are before what you do,” said **Pastor Jason Georges** (*Pastoral Ministries '99*) of Immanuel Baptist Church, Corunna, MI. His

growing church ministry seeks to plant five new churches within a two-hour radius over the next 10 years. One of the churches just started in Dearborn, MI, under Pastor Levesque. By 2030 Georges desires to see more people worshipping in the churches they started. He calls the vision “Multiplying Worship.”

Georges looks back to his time in college as he continues growing as a leader. “My freshman roommates really helped me get a great start. I appreciate the daily habits that were cultivated at PCC, daily Bible reading, etc., that built a solid foundation of Bible knowledge and the skills to study the Bible for myself—which I continue to apply today.” Currently, two of Pastor Jason’s daughters attend PCC, and for the past 10 years, 15–20 students from his church annually attend.

As he cultivates his new church in Dearborn, Josh Levesque loves the pioneering aspect of church planting. “There is ministerial entrepreneurship in most church planters, the desire to go to new places and start new works. It’s an opportunity to be involved in the creation of something that has the potential to outlive you and reach more people than you ever could alone.”

Like the trees that have multiplied for more than three decades in this Michigan town, the unchurched communities are prevalent around the world. But God calls and then prepares individuals to plant new churches with the vision to cultivate growth. ■



Dr. Shoemaker introduced special guest, Emmet Cahill, at Christmas Lights Celebration.



HOLIDAY *happenings*

The end of the fall semester brings along several special holiday events on campus!

With the fall semester ending after Thanksgiving and just before Christmas, those on campus were ready to spend time together in festive ways. And through many on-campus events, PCC helped them do just that!

Before Thanksgiving, students attended the 45th annual Turkey Bowl, a traditional championship between the top women's and men's collegian soccer teams. This year, the Zeta Delta Dolphins won their game against the Delta Gamma Bears, and the Iota Chi Stingrays won against the Omega Kappa Vikings.

Quincey Smart (*Sr., MS*), the Stingrays athletic director, was glad to see his collegian compete in the championship game before graduating. "The Turkey Bowl is such a special event because of its grandeur," he said. "It's promoted everywhere, everyone knows who's com-

peting, and everyone comes out to enjoy two juggernauts battle it out for a championship. For the longest time, we have been so close to advancing to Turkey Bowl only to come up short. It's exciting to get the recognition we've earned."

A special Fine Arts further embraced the holidays with *A Christmas Carol*. The production followed the miserly Scrooge as Christmases Past, Present, and Future show how his selfishness and solitude has directly affected those around him, offering a chance to change. With careful attention from lights, sound, and costumes, the production cast and crew made for an unforgettable performance. Scene Shop manufactured a myriad of special effects for the production, from moving portraits to self-opening doors, stunning audiences with the spectacle of Scrooge's eerie visitors.



- ◀ Faculty, staff, and students enjoyed the opportunity to share the stage for *A Christmas Carol*.
- ▼ The Iota Chi Stingrays won their championship game against the Omega Kappa Vikings.



The Zeta Delta Dolphins ▶ won the women's championship game at the 45th annual Turkey Bowl!



"The *A Christmas Carol* Fine Arts was honestly one of the best ones I have seen put on!" said **Brenna Foster** (*Jr., NY*). "They really outdid themselves with the amazing sets, effects, and story. While it was not a Christian play, it really had a strong moral to it. It really was beautiful and human."

At Christmas Lights Celebration, audiences enjoyed a beautiful evening of lights and music. As a special surprise, "Ireland's most exciting young tenor," Emmet Cahill, and his acclaimed accompanist, Seamus Brett, returned and performed alongside PCC's own music groups. The pair had recently come to Pensacola for Fine Arts this past October.

This Christmas Lights Celebration was a first-time experience for both freshman and sophomore students. "I think [Christmas Lights Celebration was] cool

because the College goes above and beyond," said **Cassia Barker** (*So., MI*). "They do so much to make it cool."

During Christmas break, students are looking forward to embracing the Christmas season and its significance with their families. "This Christmas season, I hope each student feels inspired with the freedom to worship Christ boldly through the knowledge of God's uninhibited love for them, no matter what those around them do or say," said **Carolyn Soule** (*Sr., FL*). "Let us never hold back the love we can share with others when we have been given everything in Christ." ■



Scan or visit go.pcci.edu/ChristmasLights to watch Christmas Lights Celebration!



— *Learning to Manage* — REAL ESTATE

Equipped with a solid education and having grown up in the real estate industry, Mark Porter brings experience and excellence to the housing market.



Since boyhood, **Mark Porter** (*Management '96*) has been developing and selling things. “I really enjoy selling and the inner workings of business in general,” he said.

Having his father as a business model, Mark was prepared for the evolving, demanding housing industry and equipped with a solid education.

A native to Pensacola, Porter attended and graduated from Pensacola Christian Academy. While he was a student there,

he applied his business and marketing interests to school projects by “selling hotdogs, wallpaper, and candy in the neighborhood or painting curbs for home addresses.” By the time he turned 19 as a college student, Porter had already begun a career in real estate.

Mark had planned to attend college in Tennessee, but the day before he left, he discovered the job opportunity he had was no longer there. Unsure of what to do next, Porter decided to remain in Pensacola and continue seeking the Lord’s leading. “God directed my steps to enroll and study at PCC,” he said.

“I knew many of the instructors and that PCC had the area of study I was going to pursue.”

During his study in college, Porter learned to manage his time between work and school. “Since I was putting myself through college, the basic aspects of a full-time work and class load helped prepare me for the multiple daily tasks in the real estate business,” he said. Porter regularly applies what he learned from classes such as business stats and law, marketing, and accounting. “Learning to problem solve was woven throughout different courses I took in college,” Porter said. “I would later learn that if there were no problems in the sale or purchase of real estate, we would have very little to do today.”

Many of Porter’s college instructors encouraged him in the industry by trusting him to handle their personal real estate transactions. One of his first transactions was from his accounting instructor. “He knew my grades and still chose me to help him with the sale of his land,” Porter joked. “I have maintained many relationships and have helped many families over the years buy and sell homes in the area. I am grateful for their trust in me to handle one of the largest investments most of them make in their lifetime. I’m grateful and humbled!”

The relationships he built in college translated to every area of Porter’s life—from a relationship with the Lord to connections with people beyond a business

level. During his freshman year, he met his wife while standing in line to buy textbooks. He’s also been blessed “to have many of my instructors with real-world experience that chose to come back to the classroom and pass on their expertise—not just from the books but from their personal experiences,” he said.

For the past 28 years, Mark has been a broker and VP of ERA Old South Properties, Inc. with his father, who started it in 1974, and brother. Mark manages 25 Realtors, individually helping them develop their careers. As the Porter Team, they list and sell for friends, family referrals, and past customers in the Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, Pace, Milton, and Gulf Breeze areas.

Growing up observing his father run a company and then later joining him has given Mark invaluable insight and expertise in his field. Combined with a solid Christian education at PCA and PCC, Mark Porter continues to be a testimony for Christ in the housing industry. “I have seen some people drift and have at different times during my life,” he said. “But one thing that has stuck with me and I can pull from memory at the right times are the Bible verses that I memorized at the Academy and College. I am forever grateful that I was ‘made’ to memorize Scripture,” said Porter. “Business, success, trophies, and achievements are all great. But in the end, knowing Scripture and knowing the Savior will help you navigate this life and the time we are given.” ■

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Professional Writing Communicating through the Page

The written word reaches more audiences than any other form of communication, whether in a book, on a billboard, or online, *so why not learn how to use it professionally?*

As a high school student, **Hannah Bryan** (*Professional Writing '20*) was encouraged by an English teacher to participate in a short story writing contest.



The experience gave her a desire to keep writing. Now, as a news reporter for *Sanilac County News* and *Jeffersonian*, she covers local interest stories.

“The journalism classes (PW 325–326) were a helpful introduction to what I do now,” she said. “I could have easily been intimidated when starting interviews, but I had already conducted several interviews for classes. I had the confidence that I knew what I was doing. As much as the deadlines stressed

me out in college, I’m grateful for them now. I’ve learned to manage my own time well and be professional in all of my interactions.”

When earning a bachelor’s in English with a professional writing concentration, students form and build on foundational skills in grammar, usage, and diction. They learn how to edit and hone their writing to communicate clearly in both Christian and secular writing settings through capstone projects such as Professional Writing Portfolio, *Fountains* student publication, and an internship.

“While we very much want our students to write fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, our degree focuses on having a solid understanding of the English

language to excel in editing, a valued skill in the workplace,” said Chair of Humanities Marie Thompson. “Most businesses who allow our students to serve as interns write back and ask me to send more interns! I’m very proud of our professional writing students and the various ways they are using the gift of writing to serve the Lord.”



Dustin Brady (*Commercial Writing '08*) had always wanted to write children’s books like those he loved growing up. While he went into journalism after college, he didn’t lose sight of his dream. Since first being published in 2016, Dustin’s books, the *Trapped in a Video Game* series, have sold over one million copies and been translated into nine languages. “I didn’t start working on my first book until eight years after college,” he explained. “In those eight years, God led me to several different careers and provided me with ministry opportunities that gave me skills I use every day. God knows what we need well before we ever do.”

While his career initially drew from his journalism classes, Dustin later pulled from his creative writing classes (EN 301, 401) when writing his books. “That’s one of the strengths of PCC’s professional writing program,” he said. “Students get a breadth of knowledge that will serve them well in all types of writing careers.”

As a recent graduate, **Zach Jewell** (*Professional Writing '21*) volunteers as a reporter and writer for a startup media ministry, *Is There a Cause*. In August, he also had a children’s story published in

Focus on the Family’s magazine, *Clubhouse Jr.* “I chose [to study at] PCC because it gave me a liberal arts education from a Christian worldview for a price I could afford without taking on student debt,” he said. “But PCC proved to be much more than just that. It also gave me the opportunity to meet and build friendships that will continue the rest of my life.”



For nearly two years, **Sarah Eshelman** (*Commercial Writing '08*) has been the editor-in-chief of *Answers* magazine, a publication from *Answers in Genesis*.

Her experiences in Advanced Copywriting (PW 404) helped her become familiar with the processes she works with today. “During my senior year, I served as the senior editor of *Fountains*, PCC’s literary publication,” she said. “Managing a small group of students and manuscripts probably prepared me more than I know for the work I do now. (Editing a magazine and keeping authors and reviewers on deadline is like herding cats.) But PCC’s emphasis on editing and grammar definitely gave me the skills I needed to thrive.”

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The professional writing concentration is a well-rounded and ministry-minded program, helping writers inspire hope in others. “The hope of the world is Jesus, and the best writing always acknowledges Him,” said Marie Thompson. “I often find myself praying that God would raise up great men and women of God who leave PCC and become the next generation of Christian writers who give Christianity a voice and who write for God’s glory.” ■



LADY EAGLES *compete at* **NATIONALS**

The Lady Eagles volleyball team *soared high* this playing season!

In early November, the Lady Eagles achieved their goal and played in the NCCAA DII Regionals. The team earned the 2021 South Region title, which qualified them to play on the national level.

The Lady Eagles ranked #6 at NCCAA DII Nationals as they entered the competition. They won games against Dallas Christian College and Johnson University of Florida and lost against Manhattan Christian College before advancing to semifinals. During their game against Johnson University of Tennessee, the Lady Eagles played hard but were defeated by the opposing team. The team was thankful for the opportunity to play at Nationals this season, placing fourth.

Together, the team had worked to shift their focus away from themselves, and on God. “It’s not about who we play but how we play, and in that [Regional] championship game we didn’t think about who we were playing but how we were playing and Who we are playing for,” said **Brittney Hunter** (Jr., FL), who was selected to the All-Tournament Team. “We still have a young



team this year, and I would consider this a growing year, but each one of us have improved in some way, which has improved the team. The mental focus, teamwork, and commitment on the team is what has driven us to stay focused and reach our goals for this season.”

“I have played volleyball for a long time, but I’ve never had a team or a coach like the one I have now. I’m so proud of my teammates and myself for working day in and day out and never giving up,” said **Kenzie Folker** (So., FL). “All the hard work, all the homework on the bus, and all the practices, was worth it.”



With another playing season wrapped up, the team has seen their fair share of growth, as a team and as part of the Eagles family. “If you have a mindset of always learning, you will always see improvement. And these girls have shown improvement in all areas,” said Coach Ohman. “[They] have tremendous talent. Each one of these girls has contributed some way or another throughout the season. I just love how they all work together as a team.” ■



A Most Accurate Umpire

In the world of professional baseball, alumnus **John Libka** (*History Ed.* '09) is making a name for himself as an umpire in Major League Baseball.

Debuting at a doubleheader in May 2017, Libka has since piqued the interest of baseball enthusiasts with his accurate calls on balls and strikes (error rate 7.59%) in 2018 regular season. He earned the second best overall that year with an error rate of 7.33%.

“Honestly, as an umpire, you never expect anyone to say anything kind about your actual work,” said Libka, “so it has been a little strange, but I have appreciated the support I have gotten.”

Libka began umpiring at 16 through the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s Legacy Program. After graduating from PCC, he attended Wendelstedt Umpire School, where he’s now an instructor.

“Teaching at Wendelstedt has been very rewarding,” he said. “I’ve gotten to learn from some great instructors/umpires, and also been able to apply my background in education to my work at the best umpire school ever.”

Libka’s recent accomplishments include umpiring a game in May 2021 during which he made only one wrong call—a rarity in MLB. “I just want to acknowledge the Lord’s protection and constant grace toward me,” he said. “He is the cause of any success I have and my Sustainer. He deserves all the honor and glory.” ■

Upcoming Events

Bible Conference

Uplifting Bible Preaching

February 21–23, 2022

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

PCC Educator Recruitment

for churches and Christian schools seeking candidates from among PCC students

February 28–March 1

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

College Days

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

March 31–April 1, April 7–8

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.

PCC Commencement

for families and friends of graduating students

May 13

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

Teen Extreme Youth Camp

for grades 7–12, including class of 2021 graduates

June 13–17 • June 20–24 • June 27–July 1
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850-969-1555
TeenExtremeCamp.com

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Connections

Stories from PCC

Invested in HIS STUDENTS

From his 25 years of experience, **Dr. Lonnie Smith's** ministry at PCC equips the next generation for a promising future in business.



“During his lectures, Dr. Smith is frank, honest, and tactful,” shared Josh Grover ('18; MA '20), a former finance student now pursuing seminary. “His teaching style paints a picture of reality and how you can get there. His credibility gave me courage and confidence to pursue my goals.” Many students like Josh take the lessons they've learned under Dr. Smith's tutelage with them into their future careers.

For the past 11 years, Dr. Lonnie Smith has dedicated time every day preparing to invest in his students. Then he makes time outside of class to meet with and mentor them individually. His ministry at the College helps prepare students to succeed in the real world of business.

In his home state of Kentucky, Dr. Smith has had a wide-ranging career in various roles. For more than 25 years before becoming a teacher, he was a copier technician and sales representative; he was the owner and founder of a contracting business, retail shop, and a real estate/property management company. He's also taught 5th–9th graders at Landmark Christian Academy. Dr. Smith has a bachelor's in religious education and obtained a real estate license in 1983.

As a faculty member, Dr. Smith enjoys meeting individually with students, hearing their plans, and talking them

through their concerns about the future. “I have forged many great friendships with former students. I am especially grateful for those who are most eager to learn. In the classroom, during one-on-one discussions about business, real estate, and job searches—what I enjoy most is interacting with the students.”

One of Dr. Smith's former graduate students, Eduardo Quintero ('21), shared, “Dr. Smith captures people's attention because he gives his best to help them grow while expecting nothing in return. He is a knowledgeable teacher, a real person, and one of my best friends.”

Before his wife's retirement, Dr. Smith regularly met with her for lunch on campus. As a couple, they have appreciated what the Pensacola area has to offer. “My wife especially likes the beach; I enjoy exercising, running, hiking, and bike riding—when I'm not with my grandchildren,” said Dr. Smith. One of his sons also serves at PCC while the rest remain in Kentucky.

“I'm thankful to have had 25 years of business experience in sales, service, management, and small business ownership from which to draw,” he said. It is his hope that the time he devotes to preparing and building relationships with his students provides value for the next generation of professionals. ■



PCC ALUMNI RECONNECT

Atlanta, Georgia
Sat., February 5, 2022

Cincinnati, Ohio
Sat., April 2, 2022

Orlando, Florida
Sat., April 23, 2022

Let us know you're coming!
Sign up at go.pcci.edu/ReconnectUpdate
to reserve your spot.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED

how the Lord could use
YOUR SKILLS at PCC?

JOIN OUR TEAM! Apply today.



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