

THE UPDATE

Pensacola Christian College Alumni & Friends



A College for Generations

PAGE 16

See how new alumni are influencing their world for Christ!

FALL 2022

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT



DR. TROY A. SHOEMAKER

Next year, we will recognize the 50th anniversary of Pensacola Christian College. As we look forward to celebrating, we reflect on our history and feel inspired about the future.

Since Dr. Arlin and Rebekah Horton founded PCC in 1974, our mission has been to promote the cause of Christ. Over the years, thousands of students—even multiple generations of families, as you see on the cover—have come to trust the biblical

foundation, Christian-traditional philosophy, and excellent academics at PCC. Our goal today is to preserve and strengthen those qualities, to never leave the important legacy of who we are.

Starting with this first edition of the redesigned and reimagined *Update Magazine*, we're highlighting some of the people who have been an important part of the PCC family. Every person who sits in the classrooms or serves in this ministry has a narrative, and there are some amazing stories we can't wait to tell you.

PCC doesn't exist for the sake of what happens on campus day by day. Everything we do is for one purpose: empowering students to go out and influence the world for Christ. We are grateful for each person God has brought here, and we're excited to see how God will continue to use them in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Troy A. Shoemaker, Ed.D.
President

MAGAZINE CREDITS

CONTENT SUPERVISOR
Tiffany Rott ('06, M.S. '21)

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Daniel Simpson ('12, M.B.A. '19)

EDITORIAL STRATEGIST
Samantha Allen ('18)

EDITOR
Jessica Hall ('20)

ART DIRECTOR
Aaron Ebert ('93)

PROOFING
Jessica Hall ('20)
Linda Tutton

WRITING
Samantha Allen ('18)
Julia Hansen ('21)
Kimberly Kuntz ('19, M.S. '21)
Jennifer Twigg ('04, M.S. '06, M.S. '10)
Bonnie Webb ('12)

GUEST WRITERS
Matt Teis ('00)

LEAD DESIGNER
Mikayla Stewart ('19)

PRINT DESIGN
Rachel Perrigo ('19, M.A. '21)
Bethel Stone ('05)

MARKETING
Zach Custer ('20)
Lauren McCollim ('11, M.B.A. '13)
Louie Stewart ('19)

PHOTOGRAPHY
Esther Hallman ('13, M.F.A. '16)
Rick Rivera ('22)
Nathan Van Etten ('10)

DIGITAL MEDIA
Megan Zacharias ('17)

SPECIAL THANKS
Casie Bento ('10)
Abigail Cannon ('17, M.A. '19)
Austin Hadley ('22)
Monica Koepfer ('06)
Dr. Jon Lands ('91)
Dwight Reid
Carrie Seymour ('18, M.A. '20)
Dr. Troy Shoemaker ('89, M.S. '94, Ed.D. '07)

IN THIS ISSUE



16



08



31

WHO'S ON THE COVER?

- Paul Houk ('80)
- Sharron Houk ('88)
- Trevin Houk ('90)
- Elaine Houk ('89)
- Elyssa (Houk) Sanford ('16, M.S. '21)
- Erin Houk ('19, M.S. '21)
- Elle Houk (Freshman)



CONTENTS

04 FEATURE TOPIC
Biblical Worldview

08 ALUMNI FEATURE
Cathy McMorris Rodgers

12 ALUMNI IN EDUCATION
Kenton Kramer

16 SEASONAL
Introducing New Alumni

20 STUDENT Q&As
The Modern PCC Student

22 A GOOD WORD
Cloudy Days

24 TOPICAL
Alumni & Career Services

26 STAFF SPOTLIGHT
Coach Mark Goetsch

30 CAMPUS COVERAGE
PCC 50th Anniversary

31 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Connect with us



Dr. Jon Lands

Biblical Worldview: Seeing the World through the Lens of *Scripture*

Over three-quarters of adults worldwide wear glasses or contacts because of faulty vision. Because of nearsightedness, I joined that statistic in the last few years. Increasingly, distant objects became fuzzy, and words on signs were illegible, making driving a dangerous proposition. But with new glasses, the world became clearer. Objects that were once blurry were now in focus, and signs could be easily read from far away.

The biblical worldview is like those corrective lenses through which every idea is evaluated and experience is interpreted. By viewing the world through the Word of God, we can gain clarity about the blurry issues of the modern world.

The Bible is perfect (*Psalm 19:7; 119:142, 160*) and the revelation of absolute truth (*Proverbs 30:5; John 17:17*), making the biblical worldview distinct in the marketplace of ideas. Truth is discerned from the guidance of God's Word, not invented based on personal experience or preference. That truth is transcultural and timeless as it applies to *all people at all times*.

Two thousand years ago, when Jesus was on trial before Pilate, He declared that He came into the world to bear witness to the truth (*John 18:37*). In response, Pilate asked the question, "What is truth?"

That's a question that still resonates today.

The predominant viewpoint in America is there are no fundamental moral truths. According to a study Dr. George Barna published in 2021, 54% of Americans believed “that all truth is subjective and that there are no moral absolutes.”¹

In his previous 2020 survey, Barna found that “only half of Americans now believe in an all-knowing, all-powerful, loving, and forgiving God. Less than half believe the Bible is completely true and relevant to modern life.”² With relative truth, the culture has rejected the Creator’s purpose in sexuality and biological design in gender. Consequently, they conceived a distorted view of institutions like marriage and the home.

Written 2,000 years ago, Romans 1:25 aptly describes this cultural moment propelled by a generation who has “changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.” Regardless, the eternal God is the origin and source of absolute truth. While opinions may change, God’s Word is unchangeable.

“The eternal God is the origin and source of absolute truth.”

But this dilemma over truth is not only limited to the culture. It is also evident in the church. Barna’s 2020 survey also revealed that of those who identify as born-again Christians, only 43% embrace absolute

truth.³ As a result, he noted, only 6% of Americans have a biblical worldview.⁴

Instead, many use a WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) approach to life. While it may sound biblical and harmless, this concept can result in subjective responses to cultural issues based on assumptive interpretation. As a result, the whole counsel of the Bible is ignored; the Old Testament’s moral principles and Paul’s theological arguments are disregarded. The practical effect is that the entire Bible is believed inadequate and inconsequential to life.

“Christ, the Living Word, will never contradict the Written Word.”

Rather than only asking, “What would Jesus do?” also ask, “What does the Bible say?” because Christ, the Living Word (*John 1:14*), will never contradict the Written Word (*2 Timothy 3:16*).

Colossians 2:8 cautions believers not to be captured by the empty philosophies of the world. Furthermore, 2 Corinthians 10:5 challenges the Christian to reject any ideology, argument, and opinion that exalts itself against the knowledge of God by “bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” Just like when we put on physical glasses to see clearly, we need to ensure we “wear glasses” to see the world around us through the lens of Scripture.

Pensacola Christian College is intentionally committed to academic distinction guided by the biblical worldview. The scriptural perspective is strategically integrated into all educational programs: not simply for theoretical knowledge, but to infuse into students the practical application of Scripture. PCC’s goal is to train the next generation of leaders to filter every sphere of life through Scripture and be prepared to answer when asked the reason for their hope (*1 Peter 3:15*).

When PCC graduates apply the biblical worldview to their lives, it makes them distinct as they serve throughout their careers. And if necessary, it prepares them to stand up for what is right, even when it is unpopular or controversial. We pray that they will use the lens of Scripture to become leaders who influence the world for Christ through their godly character as they pursue professional excellence. ▸



Dr. Jon Lands
(*Bible '91*) has been the executive vice president of PCC since 2019. Having pastored for 23 years, he brings a ministry focus to PCC’s leadership and strategic vision.

1. Arizona Christian University, “Postmodernism and Secular Humanism Increasingly Influence American Adults,” *American Worldview Inventory 2021*, Release #8 (October 2021): 2.
2. Arizona Christian University, “Perceptions of Truth,” *American Worldview Inventory 2020*, Release #5 (May 2020): 5.
3. ACU, “Perceptions of Truth,” 1.
4. ACU, “Perceptions of Truth,” 5.

Seasons
POWERED BY REJOICE RADIO

Just in time for Christmas, a streaming station dedicated to music for this holiday season.

Tune in now and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Visit Rejoice.org/Update to listen to *Seasons* and so much more.



Taking a Stand

“Each day, I wake up with the goal of preserving the freedom that is possible and necessary because man is made in the image of God. That idea is unique to Judeo-Christianity, but it applies to each one of us.”

As a Christian leader and elected official, Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (*Pre-Law '90*) uses her position to make a difference. For the last 28 years, she has embraced a biblical foundation while in elected office, especially when debating issues and drafting legislation. “2 Timothy 2:15 says [to] study to show yourself approved. This emphasizes the importance of studying and training to be prepared for your work and God’s calling on your life,” McMorris Rodgers explained. “The pre-law [emphasis] at Pensacola Christian College provided me with a deeper understanding of history, writing, English, speech, and debate. The program helped me build an invaluable foundation that I have leaned on and built up over my years in Congress.”

REPRESENTING EASTERN WASHINGTON

McMorris Rodgers has been a representative in the U.S. House for the 5th congressional district of Washington State since 2004. After graduating from PCC, she earned an M.B.A. from the University of Washington in 1994 and began her professional career. Within the year she was appointed as a member of the state legislature for the 7th Legislative District. Her education at PCC gave a valuable foundation for her career. “Studying at a Christian college helped reaffirm what I always believed to be true: every one of us is created with a purpose—and we all have God-given rights that don’t come from the government,”

Cathy
McMorris Rodgers



she shared. “It’s the job I undertook when I swore an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. For the blessings of liberty and faith and equality are the blessings of God.”

From 2002 to 2003, McMorris Rodgers acted as the Washington State House Minority Leader before stepping down to run for Congress. She won the election and, in 2004, became the 200th woman elected to U.S. Congress. From the very start of her career, McMorris Rodgers has taken a stand for issues that coincided with her faith and against those that did not. “At a time when Congress and our country are so deeply divided, I believe faith plays a tremendous role,” she shared. “I lean on my faith daily for strength in times of strife, for patience working with my colleagues, and for compassion for those we are working so hard to represent.”

STANDING FOR CHRISTIAN VALUES

A strong foundation in biblical values quickly influenced her advocacy priorities. “Each day, I wake up with the goal of preserving the freedom that is possible and necessary because man is made in the image of God,” McMorris Rodgers said. “That idea is unique to Judeo-Christianity, but it applies to each one of us. I’m grateful to have studied pre-law at a Christian college because I believe Judeo-Christian values and freedom of religion are a bedrock of our nation. My studies at PCC helped prepare me to better defend and promote these values I hold dear and believe are so important for the times in which we are living. They reflect the best of freedom, faith, and equality.”

As a Christian, McMorris Rodgers recognizes a responsibility to care for God’s creation and be a good steward of resources around us. As a congresswoman, she embraces innovation for American-owned energy sources by serving as the Republican Leader on the House Energy and Commerce Committee “to reduce emissions, prioritize energy security, and keep energy costs low.”

Personal insight and the strong belief in God-given rights and the value of human life emboldened McMorris Rodgers in her other areas of advocacy. Soon after her election to Congress, she met Brian Rodgers, a retired 26-year Navy veteran, and they married in 2006. “[Brian] opened my eyes to some of the unique challenges his brothers and sisters in arms face every day,” she said. “I believe we must do more to ensure [veterans] receive the gold-standard care and benefits they’ve earned in service to our nation. We truly owe them a debt we can never repay, but I will never stop trying.”

“At a time when Congress and our country are so deeply divided, I believe faith plays a tremendous role.”

Along with veteran aid, McMorris Rodgers advocates aid for families within the disability community, feeling a deep understanding of their needs because of her son, Cole, who was born with Down syndrome. “[Cole has] opened our eyes to the dignity and potential of every life,” she said. “He’s reminded me that just because challenges in life are hard, it doesn’t mean they aren’t valuable.”

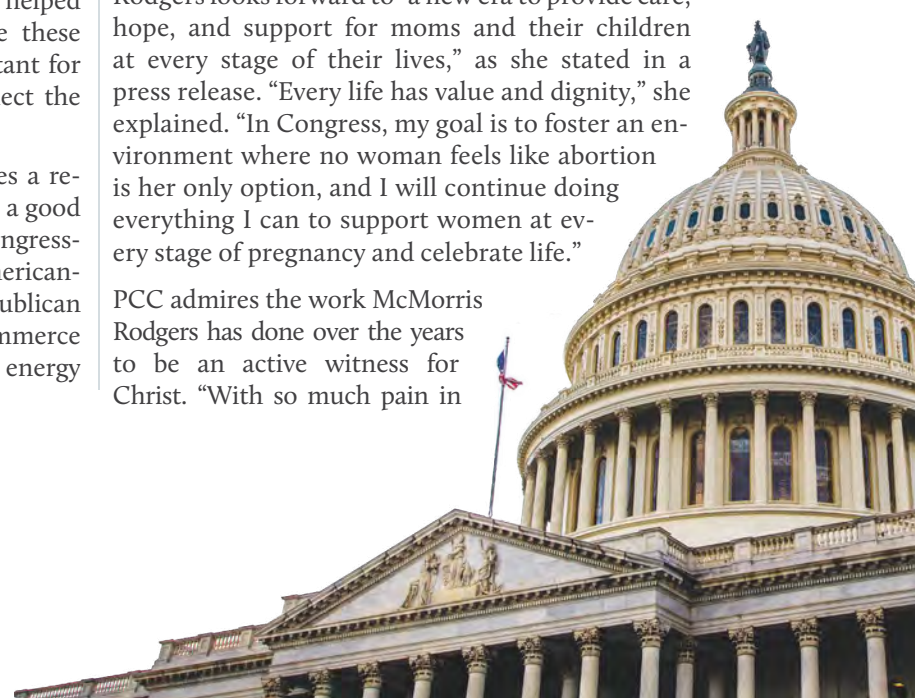
As a result of *Roe v. Wade*’s overturning, McMorris Rodgers looks forward to “a new era to provide care, hope, and support for moms and their children at every stage of their lives,” as she stated in a press release. “Every life has value and dignity,” she explained. “In Congress, my goal is to foster an environment where no woman feels like abortion is her only option, and I will continue doing everything I can to support women at every stage of pregnancy and celebrate life.”

PCC admires the work McMorris Rodgers has done over the years to be an active witness for Christ. “With so much pain in



the world today, I encourage others to use their faith as a light in a time of darkness,” McMorris Rodgers said. “Treat every person with dignity, humility, and respect. Listen with a compassionate heart and work hard to find common ground with those you disagree with. And most importantly, listen for God’s voice through the noise. He will never fail to tell you the person you should be.”

“Treat every person with dignity, humility, and respect.”



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED

how the Lord could use *YOUR SKILLS* at PCC?

JOIN OUR TEAM! Apply today.



Explore job opportunities at pcci.edu/JoinUs



A History in *Education*

*As a school administrator,
Kenton Kramer continues the calling
his parents followed to educate
the next generation.*

Kenton Kramer's (*History Education '01, M.S. Educational Administration '05*) passion for history began with family road trips to nearly every major landmark in the continental United States. Today as administrator of Franklin Road Christian School (FRCS), he continues the legacy his parents created: to educate the next generation.

FOOTSTEPS TO FOLLOW

Kramer's parents were a constant testimony of hard work and dedication in ministry. "Instead of giving up when things didn't always go as planned, their example showed that a love for the Lord can and will sustain you through those trying times," Kramer explained. In fact, his parents were recruited by PCC's founder, Dr. Arlin Horton, in Bible college, and they began their teaching career at Pensacola Christian School, known today as Pensacola Christian Academy (PCA). Since then, during the '70s and '80s, Kramer's father started two Christian schools and served as school administrator for over 40 years, and his mother taught elementary students for over 40 years, wherever her husband served.



Kenton
Kramer

Seeing ministry in action every day ignited Kramer's passion for Christian education. "But what really brought it home for me," he continued, "was when I enrolled my first-born daughter in school." The importance of a Christ-centered educational philosophy became a more personal responsibility to train his and others' children. "Now that I have four children, I want them—along with everyone else—to have the best experience possible in our Christian school."



Like his parents, Kramer serves with his wife, Tori (*Business Education '02, M.S. Educational Administration '04*), the FRCS elementary principal and fine arts coordinator. "It is a joy to work with my wife each and every day," said Kramer.

Growing up in a family of educators, Kramer remembers PCC education programs were household topics. "I ultimately believed that PCC was the best place to receive my training and prepare me for the future," he said. "PCC was different. The professors didn't just teach; they poured themselves into their students and encouraged them to become not only better teachers but better servants of God."

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

As he learned to teach history, Kramer also enjoyed studying details he had never researched before. "From 20th-century to Greco-Roman history, I was given a wide variety of classes that expanded my knowledge and love for the past," he said. But probably most of all, Kramer valued the emphasis PCC placed on the preparation to teach in a Christian school.

One of his former teachers, Dr. Denis McBride, took time to invest in Kramer. "After one of my teaching labs, he pulled me aside and showed me what it meant to teach and not just talk to my students," he recalled. "To this day, when I step into a classroom, I still ask myself the question, 'Am I teaching or am I talking?'"



As an education student, Kramer exercised his training at PCA, which provided practical learning opportunities. He appreciated that his "teachers were committed to my success and went above and beyond to help me, including when I first stepped into the classroom and dealt with real students."

Kramer will always remember his second day of teaching senior economics, when his advisory teacher slipped out of the classroom—confirming that Kramer was ready to lead. "I will never forget what it felt like knowing he trusted a college student to teach his class," said Kramer.

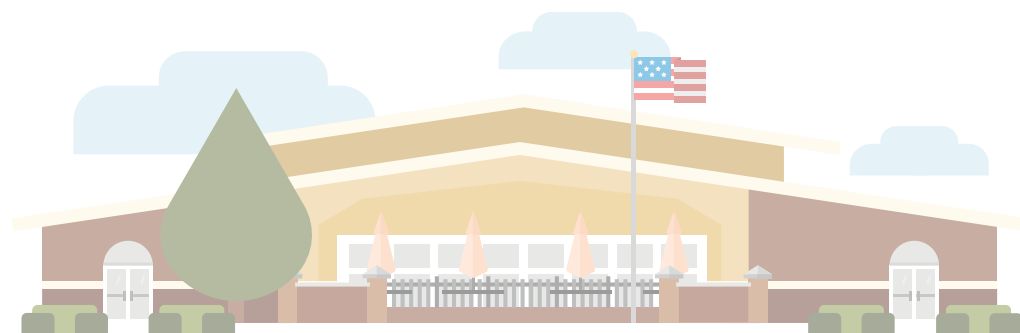
EXCELLENT EDUCATION

Kramer still applies daily to his classroom the constructive criticism he received while a student. Even as a school administrator, he still loves teaching. "Each year, I make sure to teach at least one class every day," Kramer continued. "I love investing in the lives of my students, and I truly believe I received the best education possible to prepare me for the ministry of teaching students."

Aware of the great responsibility to educate children, Kramer is also burdened to help new teachers transition into his ministry and created a mentorship program to prepare them to teach confidently. "Given today's cultural climate, we need more young people to consider Christian ministry," he said.

Serving in ministry is both rewarding and challenging. As one of the fastest-growing Christian schools in Central Tennessee, challenges have been amplified since the onset of Covid. "We are experiencing a teacher shortage like never before," Kramer noted. "And over the past two years, the waiting list for almost every class has increased."

"Ultimately, Covid seems to have brought the mission field right to our door," he said. And after 21 years in ministry and continuing his family's love for education, Kramer cannot imagine doing anything else. "It has been the most enjoyable journey of my life." ▴



Celebrate the Most Wonderful Time of Year with Us!

Tune in for one of PCC's most-loved traditions—the Christmas Lights Celebration.

Expect a fantastic light show, favorite holiday hymns and songs, and the Reason for the season woven throughout.

November 29 at 6 p.m. CT

Watch online through social media or pcci.edu/Christmas

Introducing NEW ALUMNI

Once tassels turned, the journey began. With fresh skills and a degree to prove it, graduates took on careers, graduate-level studies, and even marriage—right out of college. With their education, these new alumni are influencing their world for Christ and paving the way for the next generation of Christian leaders.



HOLLY HUNTE, NURSING '22

DELIVERING JOYFUL CARE

Holly Hunte (*Nursing '22*) graduated ready and excited to start her nursing career. After recently passing her NCLEX, she began her dream job of working in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

As she helps patients, Holly strives to do everything for the Lord and demonstrates this through tender care. "I want to be a leader and positive light in my hospital unit," she shared. "PCC taught me professionalism and how to have a willing heart to submit to authority [and] encouraged me to allow God to work through every area of my life. The nursing instructors showed me how to bring the love of Jesus to my patients."

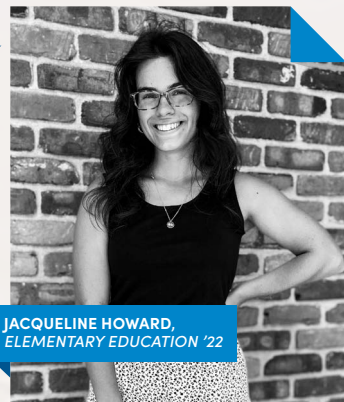
ENTERING THE BUSINESS SCENE

When Caleb Gamonal (*Advertising/Public Relations '21*) started job hunting, he had his teachers to thank for his thorough preparation. "Dr. [Jim] White helped give me knowledge about the marketing field I wanted to get into," he said. "His knowledge and expertise were very valuable and appreciated. Mrs. [Jennifer] Miller was the first teacher I ever had in college, and she did such a wonderful job at connecting with each of her students, which made me feel invested in."

Caleb now works for Techtronic Industries as a field and sales marketing specialist. "I am part of a leadership development practice helping me continue to grow my skills as I represent Milwaukee Tool in the DFW (Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area)," he said. "PCC helped me have a firm understanding of the business world. I developed skills such as time management, giving presentations, and building relationships with the public I market to."



CALEB GAMONAL,
ADVERTISING/PUBLIC RELATIONS '21



JACQUELINE HOWARD, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION '22

TEACHING FROM THE HEART

After graduation, Jacqueline Howard (*Elementary Education '22*) married and started teaching second grade at Faith Baptist School in the fall. "Instead of anticipating a new semester as a student, I have the [same] anticipation, but as the teacher," she said. Throughout her college experience, she relied on God to sustain her, especially during her internship at PCA. "I didn't think I could get through certain parts, but God proved His faithfulness and gave me peace."

Even with many changes, Jacqueline strives to live each day to the fullest. As she balances work and home life, she desires to be the "best wife, daughter, sister, and friend" she can be. "There is always much to do," she shared. "But doing things well, finding joy in the mundane, and making time for what truly matters is my goal."

DEFINING PHYSICAL SUCCESS

Braden Baldwin (*Pre-Physical Therapy '22*) began earning a master's degree in human performance from Liberty University this summer. While at PCC he became a team lead at the Sports Center and the West Campus coordinator. "My education [at PCC] gave me the opportunity to be accepted into the graduate program," he said. "Dr. Elijah Spencer was a tremendous asset to my overall education. His advice helped me in deciding the master's program I am in."

"I hope to become a director of sports performance for sports teams (collegiate or professional) or work at a sports performance facility as a trainer," Braden explained. "Ultimately, I want to open my own facility and continue the work of training athletes to become the best version of themselves."



BRADEN BALDWIN, PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY '22



JACOB WORMLEY, HISTORY '22

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Jacob Wormley (*History '22*) jumped at the opportunity to work as a staff assistant for U.S. Senator Joni Ernst. He answers constituent phone calls, welcomes people to meetings, and gives tours of the Capitol building. "Growing up, I have always been fascinated with the world of politics," Jacob said. "I would watch the news and presidential elections and debates. I also volunteered for different political organizations."

Jacob uses skills he learned from his college classes daily. "Fundamentals of Speech helped me develop a comfort for speaking in front of people. Communication is key in politics," he said. "I also loved the biblical worldview of the various history classes. It is important to remember that the foundation of government was instituted by God."

When these graduates walked away with their diplomas, ready to begin their dreams, the Lord had already opened the doors: **they just needed to take the next step.**



PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

EXPERIENCE PCC YOU WON'T BLEND IN—YOU'LL BELONG

Whether you're about to graduate high school or just started, find out what college is like *before* you're a college student!



College Days

A two-day personalized visit that dives deep into everyday college life

UPCOMING DATES

March 2-3, 2023
March 30-31, 2023



Explore PCC

A one-day college event designed for students and families

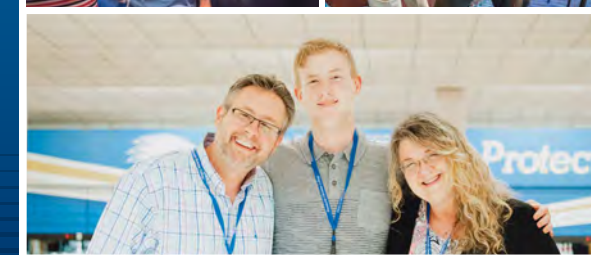
UPCOMING DATES

February 17, 2023
April 14, 2023



Find more details about each event at

go.pcci.edu/SeeCampus



DAVID CUEVAS

1. Why did you choose to study management and accounting at PCC?

PCC had everything I was seeking—low tuition, quality academics, and a biblical emphasis—and God opened the door for me to come to PCC. Because I wanted to get into business, I chose [to study] management, but after taking Principles of Accounting my freshman year, my interest shifted toward accounting. I added the accounting minor sophomore year, and the major junior year.

2. Where do you feel the Lord leading you after graduation?

It's hard to believe I'm a senior going to graduate next spring. PCC has prepared me for my future, and God has graciously guided my steps. The Lord is directing me to pursue a Master of Accountancy and afterward sit for the CPA exam. My goal is to work at a firm and gain experience, then one day start my own firm to assist small businesses.

3. What about your student experience have you appreciated the most so far?

What I appreciate the most is the experience to attend a college that focuses on God spiritually and academically while providing countless opportunities for students to lead, serve, and influence others.

4. How does the Christian environment encourage spiritual growth while at PCC?

Being challenged almost every day in church or chapel provides much room for individual growth. Then, surrounding yourself with godly friends is encouraging and uplifting. And being held accountable, especially in leadership positions, teaches discipline and maintaining one's testimony.

5. Can you share a time where a friend or faculty member encouraged or inspired you?

I had a friend from my freshman and sophomore years who gave me haircuts. Every time I would get a haircut or have lunch with him, we always opened up to each other, inspiring and uplifting each other with things God was showing or teaching us. We could never spend much time together, but the time we did get are moments I'll never forget.

MALLORY SULLIVAN

1. Why did you choose to study elementary education at PCC?

My parents went [to PCC] and graduated, and so did both of my brothers, so I was naturally a little more drawn here. I chose elementary education mainly because I have always wanted to be a teacher. I saw their education program, and I noticed how everyone that came through was very prepared. I liked that it was a natural college atmosphere while still having biblical principles and values in place.

2. Where do you feel the Lord leading you after graduation?

After graduation, I feel like the Lord is leading me to move back home and use what I have learned to serve and teach at the Christian school that I graduated from. I've always felt like I could help there, and the Lord can use me in that way since I am an alumna.

3. What about your student experience have you appreciated the most so far?

What I've appreciated the most was the opportunity to serve in my collegian. I loved that I was able to be their president so that I could meet more girls and have outings where we could hang out together.

4. How does the Christian environment encourage spiritual growth while at PCC?

The Christian environment on campus encourages personal spiritual growth more than just believing what you hear. The teachers encourage us to look to the Bible for ourselves to see what God says and not just what somebody else says.

5. Can you share a time where a friend or faculty member encouraged or inspired you?

Dr. [Linda] Williams, my advisor, has been one of the biggest encouragements during my time at PCC. My first semester sophomore year, she took prayer requests, and I had a few that I asked her to pray for. A whole year later, she came to me and asked me about those requests. No matter what I was going through, I knew I could talk to her, and she would be there, ready to pray for me and encourage me. I want to be a teacher like her.



CLASSIFICATION
SENIOR

STUDYING
MANAGEMENT,
ACCOUNTING

COLLEGIAN
DELTA PI KINGS

HOMETOWN
OAK RIDGE,
NORTH CAROLINA



CLASSIFICATION
SENIOR

STUDYING
ELEMENTARY
EDUCATION

COLLEGIAN
PSI OMICRON SABRES

HOMETOWN
POWELL,
TENNESSEE

Cloudy Days

By Matt Teis

The bright lights of the Las Vegas landscape dim in comparison to the summer sun of the desert oasis. The summer months boast temperatures well over 100 degrees daily and will, at times, exceed 120 degrees. Rain rarely falls. The first 5 months of 2022 only yielded .2 inches of rain. At the hottest time of the year in this desert climate, clouds form in the south and western parts of the valley. Monsoonal moisture from the Gulf of Mexico warms in the desert heat and forms billowing clouds. **Those who call Las Vegas home welcome the cool comfort from the blazing sun these clouds provide.**

1 Corinthians 10:1 recounts God's people and their exodus from Egypt when it says, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea." The children of Abraham leaving bondage were not left to their own devices. **God led them with a cloud.** The cloud functioned in a variety of uses. The cloud led God's people as Exodus 13:21 demonstrates, "And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night." The cloud protected God's people against attack as recorded in Exodus 14:20, "And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night." Paul's insight in 1 Corinthians about the cloud highlights another aspect of the cloud.

It was a comfort.

The desert travels of the Israelites took place in a treacherous region of the world. From Egypt to Israel, the wilderness in between was a barren wasteland. The desert climate was inhospitable for plant life and wildlife. The Israelites on more than one occasion feared for a lack of water, but there was always a cloud. **This cloud was not only a protector and director, but the cloud was also a comforter.** In a perilous place, filled with uncertainty, God provided comfort. Imagine the difference in temperature for the traveling wanderers who happened upon the Israelite camp. The cloud gave shade, the cloud gave rest, the cloud gave comfort.

The Lord Jesus promised to give a similar gift to his disciples. In John 16:7, Jesus said, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." The Holy Spirit comforts believers. In perilous times with uncertain futures, God gives a Comforter.

Live under the cloud today.



Pastor Matt Teis (*Pastoral Ministries '00*) has been assistant pastor at Liberty Baptist Church (NV) since 2000. He's been an engaging guest speaker on PCC's campus, sharing messages during Opening Convocation, chapel services at PCC, and Youth Outreach Ministry Teen Extreme summer camp.

Photo by Jordan Saines on Unsplash



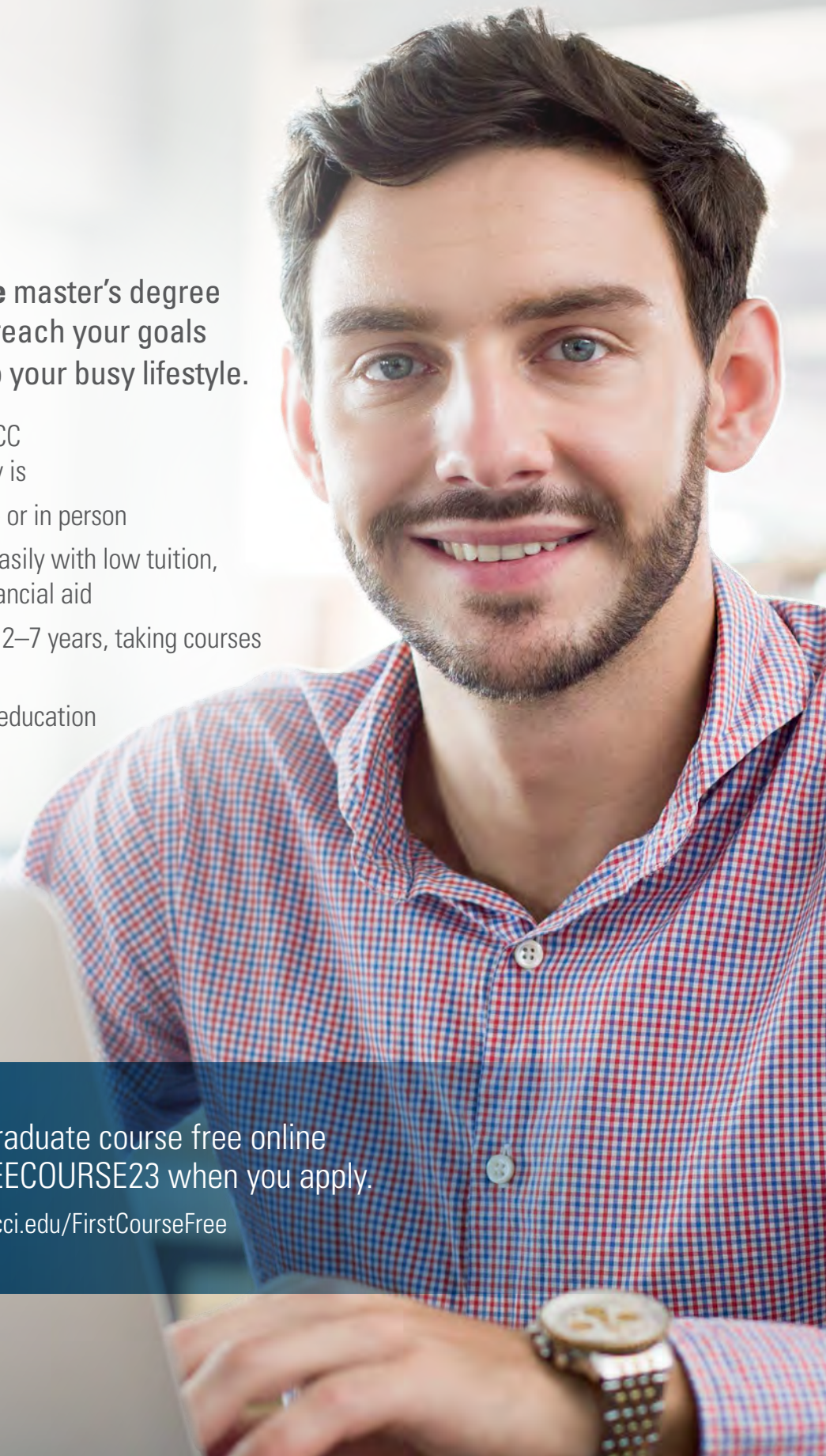
Seminary & Graduate Studies

NOW IS YOUR TIME!

With the option of an **online** master's degree at your fingertips, you can reach your goals with a program that fits into your busy lifestyle.

Pursuing an advanced degree at PCC or Pensacola Theological Seminary is

- flexible*—take courses online or in person
- affordable*—manage costs easily with low tuition, payment plan options, and financial aid
- attainable*—graduate within 2–7 years, taking courses at your own pace
- accredited*—apply a quality education to your job or ministry



Get your first graduate course free online by entering FREECOURSE23 when you apply.

Learn more at go.pcci.edu/FirstCourseFree

Graduation is Just the Beginning

Career Services and Alumni Association provide valuable resources and opportunities to connect with and invest in others.

From “Welcome, freshmen,” to “Congratulations, graduates,” students at Pensacola Christian College gain access to a network of fellow students and professionals. Students are grafted into this community where they can prepare for their career, and alumni invest in the next generation as professional mentors.

CAREER SERVICES

With graduation as the goal, students generate questions about what comes next. *How can I make my résumé stand out? What connections can I make to help further my career?* Career Services is dedicated to helping students develop professionally and find valuable resources for the next step in their careers. The department assists with résumé and cover-letter templates, job postings, interview guides, and career prep consultation with a certified counselor.

Through the networking and mentorship program, students can learn from seasoned alumni. Wherever they are in their career, alumni have wisdom and advice to share with those just starting out. Graduates who choose to create profiles indicate how they can assist students through internships, job opportunities, answering industry-specific questions, and more. As they invest in the next generation, they could even identify prospective members to add to their team.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

After earning their degrees, all PCC graduates are invited to stay connected to their alma mater through Alumni Association. Like an extended family, the Association recognizes graduates' accomplishments and provides ways for them to unite in person or online to share their career experiences and encouragement. Alumni Connect, an online plat-

form, gives graduates the opportunity to discover others in their field and connect virtually. Alumni Services hosts Reconnect events across the country, bringing together local graduates for an evening of sharing memories and a meal with College President Troy Shoemaker. And each fall, graduates are personally invited back to campus—where it all began—for Alumni Homecoming.

Many alumni take their involvement further through financial investment and participation in Mission Projects. Programs such as the need-based PCC Care Fund, Amazon Smile, or anonymously helping a student pay a bill can motivate the next generation to move forward with their academic goals. Alumni could even pass the baton with Planned Giving or by starting a new scholarship. Annual Mission Projects invite alumni to support the student body with donations or by running the 5K.

THE RECURRING BLESSING

Both students and alumni benefit from this professional relationship—students gain valuable advice from qualified alumni—and alumni, in return, are fulfilled by their investment and gain a better understanding of the next generation. The cycle produces a strong bond that can last a lifetime and span generations. “Alumni give back because they love PCC; they’re the root and heart of the ministry,” said Mullenix. “When an alumnus wants to give back, it becomes mutually beneficial. They’re established in their careers and ready to help that next generation. Just like when they were students, alumni want to influence their world for Christ beyond their own careers.”

As president of Dove Creek Environmental, LLC, Scott Clark (*Bible '92, M.A. '95*) has benefited from interacting with other graduates on the Alumni Association site. “I created a group for PCC grads who served in the military and was pleasantly surprised to see so many fellow alumni were also fellow vets,” he said. “Certainly, our military needs the influence of men and women who seek to honor God with their lives.”

Scott participated in the mentorship program and worked with a sophomore studying business. Having started a business recently, Scott could share personal details from his start-up experience.



“[The mentee] could compare copies of my financial reports with what she was learning in her classes,” he explained. “It was rewarding to have a small part in helping the next generation reach their goals.”

Andrew Roach (*Computer Science '02*), a director at Northrup Grumman for the past 14 years, has appreciated connecting with former classmates and friends. “I recently brought my daughter to a summer camp at PCC and noticed several other parents there with whom I went to school,” he said. “It occurred to me that there will soon be many second- and even third-generation alumni from PCC. That’s a lot of connections with experience to be shared and help to be offered.”

Alumni have the life experience to share, and current students need a network of like-minded people to support and advise them. The needs met for both parties fuel the relationship with mutual benefit. Discover the benefits of staying connected and getting involved in the PCC Alumni community! ▶



pcc.edu/GetConnected

Stay up to date
on current alumni
events and
get connected!

MARK GOETSCH

LIVING A LIFE OF ETERNAL INFLUENCE

During a recent chapel service, the strong voice of former PCC Eagles basketball coach and athletic director Mark Goetsch carried across the Crowne Centre auditorium. “Most teams have some strong offensive player, an MVP of sorts, who can score goals or points. On many teams, there’s a defensive leader, a stopper of sorts, who can shut down the opponents’ threats.” He dove into his leadership illustration as he looked over the silent student body. “But how many teams have a player of influence?” he asked.

Since 1994, Mark Goetsch has been a player of influence both on and off the court, and Pensacola Christian College is proud to announce that he has been inducted as a member of the NCCAA Hall of Fame.

Goetsch led the PCC Eagles basketball team for 27 years as head coach. He has invested in roughly 500 student-athletes and coached over 800 games before retiring in 2021. Now he teaches full-time at PCC and works alongside Coach Jason Bell as an assistant coach. Not only has he mentored athletes, he has also challenged the entire PCC community to live a life of influence for Christ. When he speaks in chapel, Goetsch skillfully shares stories of athletes and sports

plays and incorporates biblical principles throughout his messages. And as a coach, Goetsch has been known to show up to practice early and train tirelessly with his players, one-on-one or as a group, pushing them to be better than the day before.

Even more than pushing his players to strive for excellence, Goetsch has exemplified to them how coaching can be a ministry. Three days before his first semester as a freshman, Ryan Vanderboegh (*Sport Management '08*) tore his ACL. “I knew very few people at PCC at that time, but Coach Goetsch took me to many days of rehab throughout the next 6 months and invested a lot of time in me over the next 5 years,” said Ryan. Having played under Goetsch for four years, Ryan is grateful for the influence that made him who he is today.

Major League Baseball umpire John Libka (*History Education '09*), another former Eagles player, appreciated how Goetsch motivated him in ways no one else had. “I learned a lot about hard work from him, and his example was very influential during those very formative years in shaping who I have become,” he said. “Through all of this, his love for our Lord was evident, and Coach’s desire to see us thrive spiritually was very evident.”



Wherever he has served, Goetsch has purposed to get involved in the ministry. He started a Sunday School Bible Study class at Campus Church, which he still teaches today, soon after he began coaching the PCC Eagles. Having a heart for missions, he also led the Romania missions team with Youth Outreach Ministry (YOM) for twelve years. While there, he taught using object lessons similar to those he's used as a chapel speaker.

Beth Hottel (*Bible '14*), who is now staff at PCC and attends Goetsch's Sunday Bible Study, went on the Romania YOM missions trips in 2014 and 2016. "We were challenged to pray for each other and the people in Romania on a daily basis. He was right alongside us, playing games with the kids and with us, always there to offer advice or words of encouragement," she said of her time on the team. "I always liked Coach as a speaker in chapel [when I was a student] and now as my Sunday school teacher. He's someone I've always respected."

Goetsch uses the relationships he built through sports as avenues for evangelism. After each game, he has inspired companionship between his team and the opposing teams by hosting post-game pizza gatherings. His example motivates his players to get to know their opponents, some even getting the opportunity to lead others to the Lord.

Former Eagles player Jeremy Ruffin (*Sport Management '10*, *M.S. Educational Leadership '12*) was one of the many student-athletes Goetsch had a direct influence on. Jeremy founded and owns Ruff Path, a company that allows him to build relationships with people in the basketball community and offer guidance and support. "[Coach Goetsch] taught me that you can have a ministry with coaching and that your relationship with the Lord is so important if you are going to have a relationship with others," said Jeremy. "I thank the Lord for Coach Goetsch. He was my [Little League coach] growing up. He instilled in me the daily grind mentality needed as a coach and a man."

As one of his former students, PCC Lady Eagles basketball coach Jared Sellars (*Physical Education '00*) learned a lot about basketball and life while playing for and learning under Goetsch. "Those who know Coach well are very familiar with the time and energy he puts into mentoring and caring for others," said Jared. "He is an extremely hard worker and always put in the extra time and effort with his coaching and teaching. In the last 11 years working here at PCC, Coach has been extremely helpful and, overall, a great mentor and friend. I am so glad he is getting honored by the NCCAA; he has worked so hard over the years serving at PCC and the NCCAA. I am so thankful for his leadership in my life."

Through everything he does, Mark Goetsch has consistently been a dependable mentor, coach, teacher, and friend. We at PCC are thankful for the continued guidance and encouragement he provides to students, faculty, and staff. In a recent chapel message, Goetsch summed this up best: "Leadership, in its simplest form, is influence."



Coach Goetsch during a timeout in an Eagles game, 1997

Calendar of Upcoming Events



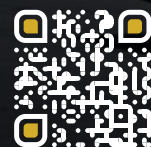
PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE.

WHAT'S YOUR PCC STORY?

50 years of influencing the world for Christ

Over the past half-century, countless lives have been transformed on campus. However you're connected to PCC—current or previous student, staff or faculty member, or friend—you've formed relationships, made decisions, and created memories that remain with you today. As we approach this significant milestone, let's reflect, celebrate, and thank the Lord for what He's done—share the moments you treasure through written testimony, video, or photos.

Stories keep us connected—how was your life changed during your time at PCC?



Upload your memories at pcci.edu/ShareYourStory

FEBRUARY

- 2 Health Professions Career Fair*
- 11 Fine Arts Series: The King's Singers
- 22–24 Bible Conference
- 27–28 Educator Recruitment*

*For more information on how to get involved with employee recruitment visit pcci.edu/CareerServices.

MARCH

- 21–23 Enrichment Retreat
- 27–29 Abeka Principals Clinic

MAY

- 4–6 Fine Arts Series: Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Purloined Letters
- 12–13 Commencement*

*May 12, 2023: Nursing and M.S.N. Commencement (including Pinning and Lamp Lighting) at 7 p.m. CT

May 13, 2023: Arts and Sciences, Biblical Studies, and Seminary Commencement at 9:30 a.m. CT
Professional Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, and Graduate Studies Commencement at 2 p.m. CT



Bible Conference

Be encouraged in your Christian walk through inspiring messages from God's Word during PCC's 49th Bible Conference.



Enrichment Retreat

Get the refreshment your spirit needs at Enrichment Retreat. Become sharpened and challenged among pastors and other ministry leaders, renewing your zeal for serving God.



Commencement

Recognized for talents and outstanding achievements, the graduating class receive well-earned awards and diplomas during the 48th Commencement Ceremonies.



FUN FACT!

The PCC Eagles mascot, **Eagor** the Eagle, is 40 years old. The mascot "hatched" in 1982.

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE®
P.O. BOX 18000
PENSACOLA, FL 32523-9160
U.S.A.

**NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PENSACOLA, FL
PERMIT NO. 34**

