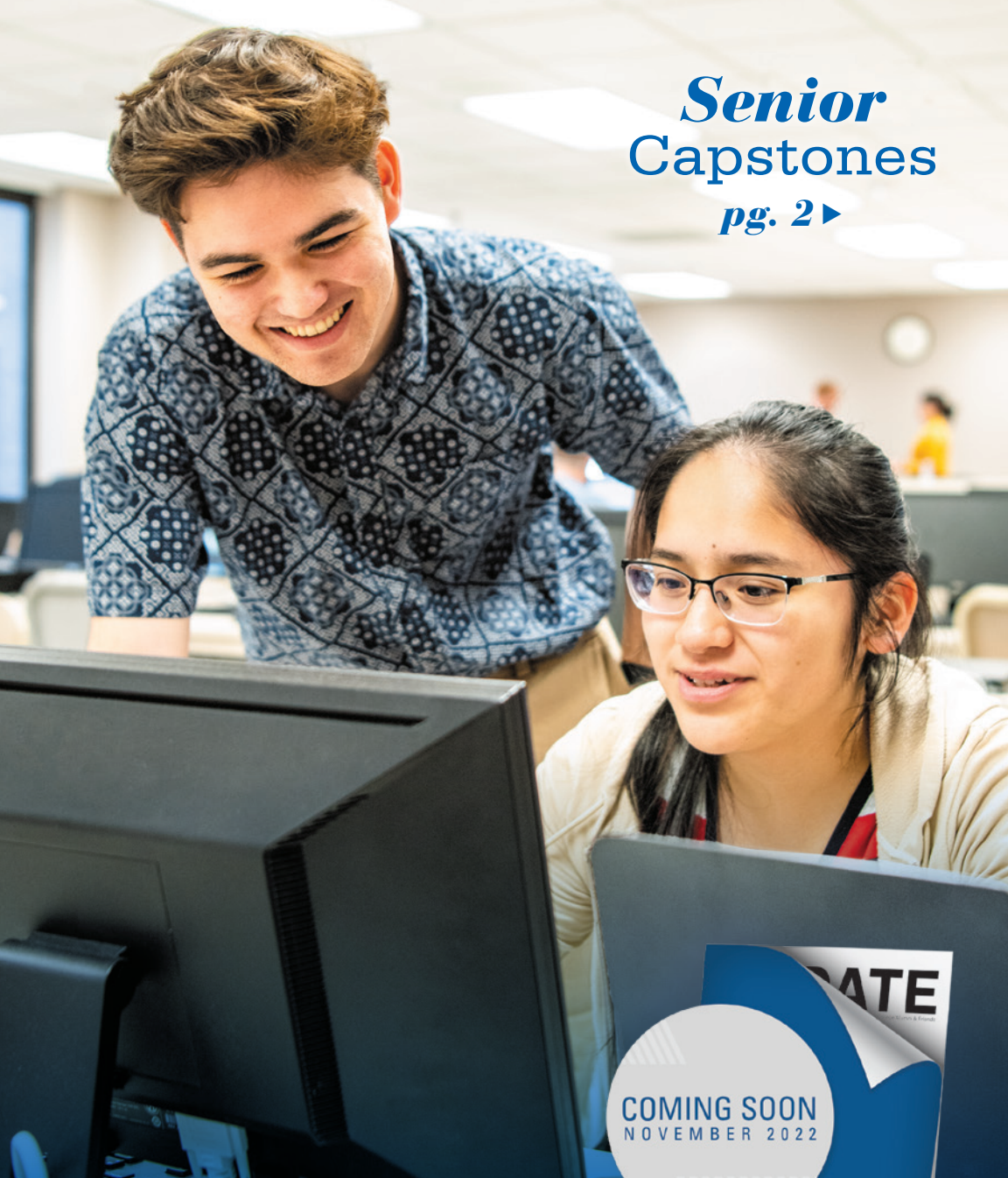


PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

UPDATE

Spring 2022 | pcci.edu/Update

Senior
Capstones
pg. 2 ▶



COMING SOON
NOVEMBER 2022

A brand-new experience is underway...
Subscribe for free today!
pg.11 ▶

From the President

Dr. Troy A. Shoemaker

@PresidentPCC



Since 1974, *The Update* has been a venue through which PCC has shared much of its history. What started as a promotional piece to inform about the ongoings of Pensacola Christian College is growing to a full-size magazine. This fall, you'll receive a reimagined experience that will highlight, support, and inform alumni and friends. You can expect an updated design, new content, and news on upcoming events! I was excited to introduce this at the Alumni Reconnects in Atlanta and Cincinnati. Even if you already get *The Update* in the mail, I want to encourage you to subscribe today to ensure you'll receive this new magazine (see page 11).

Over the 48 years PCC has operated, we've added not only buildings but also degrees, classes, and resources. Our growth is paralleled by incredible alumni influencing the world for Christ—we want to know how! Consider being featured in a future issue and share your success stories with us at pcci.edu/YourStory.

As we anticipate a refined *Update* magazine for alumni and friends, I'm looking forward to enjoying this refreshed experience with you!



The Update through the years



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Snapshots of Progress

SENIOR CAPSTONES

During their final semesters, many students test their skill with a special senior-level project.

Each year, many seniors reach the culmination of their training by completing a capstone project. The final paper, project, show, or performance requires hours of extensive preparation and coffee (of course!) to get it ready.

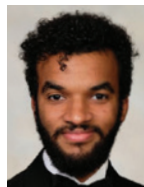


Computer science student **William Job** (Sr., ME) is on a team preparing a business simulation game in Software Engineering Project II. In this class,

students design, develop, and refine software as a team. “We are currently fixing all the bugs that have been uncovered due to Black-box testing, when a group of people come in and test our game without knowing what the actual code looks like,” he said. “We are also perfecting and implementing the last of our game’s features—putting in the rest of our assets, perfecting our tutorial, fixing some issues with our database, and adding music/sound effects.”

As team lead, William encourages and works with his team to present the game at Software Expo, a professional event hosted by the class to showcase their programs. “Having already started an internship, I have learned that being able to work with people is crucial to my industry,” he said. “Being able to work with a team this year, in a professional-like environment, has given me the edge in starting a career in software engineering. The experience of working with a team to produce a game, code together, and learn together is something I will never take for granted.”

As a graphic design student, **Josh Holmes** (Sr., KY) has been polishing up his best projects to be displayed professionally for Graphic Design Portfolio Exhibit. “I am doing finishing touches on my portfolio before I send it off to print,” he said. “I am also working on projects





in my Directed Studio class that I hope to display. I'm very excited about a vinyl record album design and a photography book in progress."

"Preparing for this exhibit instills future beneficial skills. This is definitely testing how much I've learned and how to apply new skills to past projects while keeping older skills sharp," Josh continued. "It is also a good step toward my next goal as I plan to stay for grad school and will one day have a master's exhibit."



Josiah Sainsbury (*Sr., FL*), who is studying criminal justice, has been teamed up with a classmate to prepare a paper and 40-minute presentation for Senior Criminal Justice Seminar. "The final presentation and research paper helps test my ability to gather accurate data and present it in a professional manner," he explained. "It also helps me learn to work with a partner toward a common goal, a skill that will be useful no matter where I end up."

Together, they have been collecting information on human trafficking, an area of criminal justice Josiah is passionate about. "The most challenging part is learning to distinguish between good and bad information," said Josiah. "The project makes me genuinely excited

to start my career. I enjoyed the research that went into it, and I feel more prepared to go into a graduate studies program after completing this project."

Celina Sessoms (*Sr., FL*), who is studying history, is preparing a thesis for Senior History Research Project. Her topic covers the role female Soviet pilots played during World War II. Finding solid resources to support her topic has proven difficult, but in a way that stretches her abilities. "My topic is a bit niche, so [I've] been working with my professor and challenging my research skills to find the proper sources," she said.



While difficult, Celina knows the thesis will help her apply for graduate school. "My aim for a future career lies in archaeology and museum curatorship," she said. "This project will be invaluable for working on a master's degree and having experience in research and the development of higher education. Archeology often requires extensive amounts of research and procedure, and museum curatorship requires scholarly integrity and interpersonal relationships within the field."

In a few weeks, these projects will be completed and polished for presentation, and these students will be anticipating their next challenge—starting their new careers as alumni! ■





Entering the Crowne Centre, many elegantly dressed audience members filled the empty space, anticipating a night of moving music and fun with friends.

On Valentine's Day weekend, audience members flooded the Crowne Centre, carrying small gifts received from friends and dates to commemorate the evening. Soon, they would be dazzled by the musical talents of the Dover Quartet and the Brooklyn Duo as they performed their first concert at PCC. KaLyn Collins (*Jr., IA*), who is studying music education, was excited to see these groups perform. "I've heard of Brooklyn Duo before. They're well-known enough that people in the music realm are very familiar with them," she said.

The lights in the Crowne Centre dimmed and the performance began with the traditional Lord's Prayer. The Dover Quartet made their way to the set in the semi-darkness. A hush covered the audience as they waited for the Grammy-nominated group to begin. Named among

the greatest string quartets in the last 100 years (*BBC Music Magazine*), they started the concert with "Presto" by Vivaldi. The stringed instruments enchanted the audience as they played classics from Mendelssohn, Ravel, and Dvořák.

The concert then transitioned to classical musicians and YouTube celebrities, the Brooklyn Duo. Marnie and Patrick Laird founded the group in 2014 and were quickly established as one of today's most successful classical cross-over ensembles. The couple entertained the audience with various music, including classics such as Pachelbel's *Canon in D* and modern pieces such as "What a Wonderful World" by Thiele.

Both groups joined together to close the concert with some familiar movie scores. Prior to their final number, "Married Life from *Up*" by Giacchino, Dr. Dale

Adkins, PCC's Student Care director, presented the musicians with colorful balloons reminiscent of the film's paradise-searching abode. "I thought you guys could use this," he said before heading offstage.

The concert ended with a standing ovation. The excellent musicianship of the two groups moved the audience to applause, leading to Puccini's "Nessun dorma" as an encore performance. Students appreciated how these master musicians showcased their talents. "I'm a really musical person," said Alvin Chapman (*Jr., MD*). "Getting a chance to see these professionals play at the highest level possible was definitely a phenomenal experience."

The Fine Arts Series introduces students to performances that engage the mind and entertain. It also allows students to practice proper etiquette on formal social occasions. "For me, personally, I wasn't exposed to a lot of different things like this," said Lucas Whiteside (*Jr., IL*). "So, it teaches [students] how to behave in a formal setting, while giving us a time of relaxation and just more culture."

With a variety of musical arrangements, this Violins and Virtuosos Fine Arts had something for everyone—a masterful and sensational experience to cherish, reflect on, and expand one's appreciation of music. ■



Because one musician was recovering from COVID-19, both groups wore face masks during their pieces.



Touching Lives through — Coffee & — <COMPUTERS/>

Prepared to follow the Lord's leading, **Chad Talley** thrives as a director at Dell Technologies and as a coffee franchise owner.

If you were to step into **Chad** (*Computer Science '00*) and **Marie Talley's** coffee shop in Georgetown, Texas, you'd be welcomed by the sound of sputtering espresso and the fragrance of freshly ground coffee. A barista behind the counter could tell you where these freshly brewed coffee beans were planted, harvested, and then ground for your steaming (or iced) cup—and you may want to snap a picture before biting into one of the café's unique Instagram-worthy sandwiches, hot off a waffle iron.

Before becoming a café owner, Chad has had a successful career at Dell Technologies for the last 15 years, currently acting as director of global process engineering. About 3 years ago, he and his wife felt God calling them to find a new way to serve their community and discovered Just Love Coffee Café, a growing business franchise originally founded to help families with adoption expenses. They knew that opening a location would create many opportunities to demonstrate God's love.

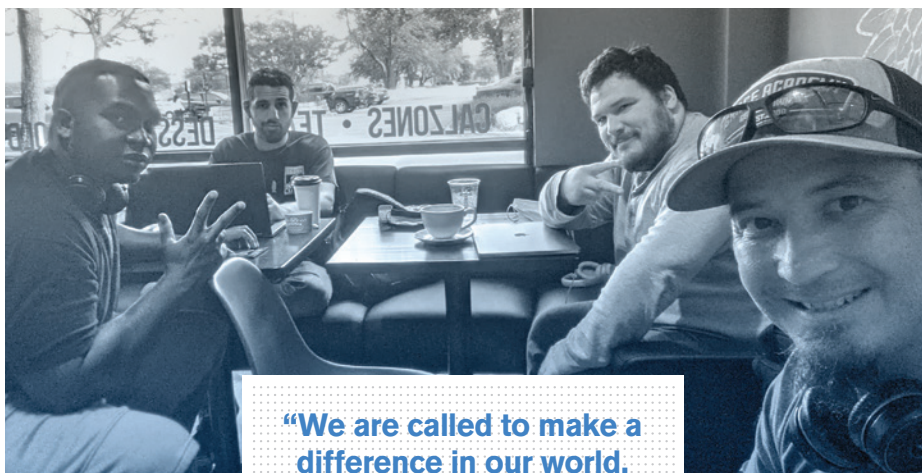
“We are called to make a difference in our world, and what better way than providing a place where everyone feels true love? We shared a common bond in our faith with the café’s founders, and we believed this was a step God was calling us toward,” Chad said. “We believe God wanted us to be a part of the community, and we express our faith through God’s command to love Him completely and to love our neighbor.”

Now, both in the café and in his job at Dell, Chad uses the lessons that he learned at college. “What I learned at PCC—and have applied at every job—is the desire and drive to be excellent and do my best, realizing that it is a reflection of who I am as a believer,” Chad said. “The Word tells us to do everything to the best of our ability and God’s glory. In a professional career, people see God in what I say and how I perform. My classes all gave me core skills, but it was the desire to do my best for God that caused me to be successful in my career.”

Chad also traces his heart for ministry back to a sermon he heard at PCC. “I truly believe this journey has only been possible because in the middle of my college career, God asked me to fully commit to Him,” he said. “I chose to truly follow Christ for my life. It hasn’t been perfect, but it has been awesome.”

As Chad and Marie operate Just Love Coffee Café, they’ve created a space for people to eat, drink coffee, worship, study, and work. “God has used this to stretch our faith, but more importantly, to create a place where everyone is welcome,” said Chad. “My wife and I get to meet and talk to thousands of people and be a light to those we meet. We are constantly amazed at how our café is used for His purpose.”

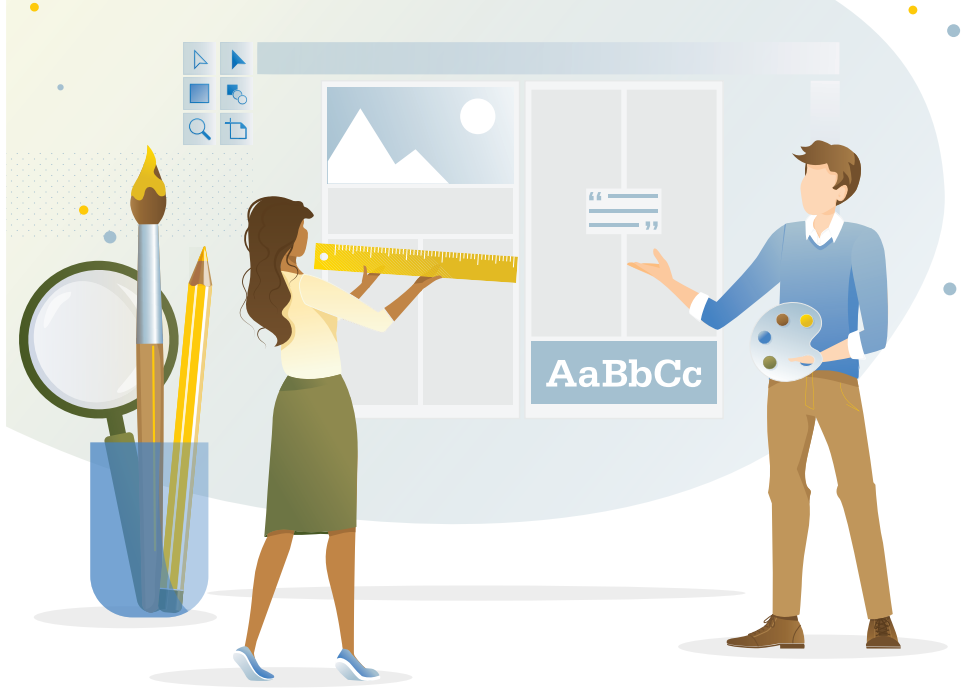
Together, the Talleys have readily followed God’s leading and are glad to see the good He provides through them. “Scripture tells us to commit our ways unto the Lord, and He will direct our paths,” Chad said. “I have seen that the more I commit to Him, the more He allows me to do for Him.” ■



“We are called to make a difference in our world, and what better way than providing a place where everyone feels true love?”

Graphic Design

VISUAL COMMUNICATION



The graphic design concentration equips students to bring glory to God through digital art.



For the past 17 years, **Andrea Young** (*Graphic Design '98*) has been sharing the gospel through a Sunday school curriculum.

At D6 Family Ministries (under Randall House), Andrea leads a team of three designers. “I am a ‘working manager’ as they call it,” she said. “While I assign jobs, keep production schedules moving, create marketing print pieces and web graphics, I also design products for the curriculum.”

Because of her undergraduate training, Andrea felt prepared to succeed in her field. “I remember my professors helping me understand principles and procedures. They had a heart for helping

the student; they cared for us, and you could tell,” she recalled. “I like to think that I pass on to my employees the same sense of helping them succeed and overcome any obstacles.”

Like Andrea, students in PCC’s program develop foundational and creative problem-solving skills while completing projects and internships. They also broaden their expertise by producing a portfolio exhibit and by using advanced tools such as Adobe Creative Cloud. With their degree, graphic design graduates are prepared to lead in their field. They’re equipped to influence design in ministries, businesses, and even as freelancers through digital or print media.

“I remember my professors helping me understand principles and procedures. They all had a heart for helping the student—they cared for us, and you could tell.”

“One advertising class exercise taught me to create a design within two hours,” said **Justin Ellis** (*Graphic Design '06; M.A. Commercial Art '08*). “That practice has come into play in my present job.” As a designer at High Resolutions in Knoxville, TN, Justin enjoys serving his clients. “By the grace of God, I’m able to create something that is beyond what they were expecting,” he said. “I love the opportunity to help people by creating amazing graphics for them.”



“When you enroll in PCC’s visual arts department, you join a family of other creatives,” said Greg Hewitt, the visual arts department chair, considering prospective students. “Your instructors, award-winning artists and designers with years of experience, will teach you the principles and methods necessary to create work that stands above the rest. And your peers, each on an artistic journey similar to yours, will engage you along the way.”



Brad Keller (*Graphic Design '03*) saw the quality of the Visual Arts program and was drawn to PCC. “The overall training I received was essential, from my art classes to grammar and speech,” he said. As vice president at loanDepot, a mortgage lending company, Brad manages

the brand and how it comes to life for their audience. “As I work with my team to complete initiatives, I realize how much my undergrad courses prepared me to lead calls with business leaders and provide solutions,” he said. “And a foundation in grammar and design has helped provide sound feedback to my team.”

With a foundation in liberal arts, the graphic design concentration offers a well-rounded understanding of each design stage. “As a Christian college, our perspective starts from a biblical worldview, which we readily apply to the arts,” Mr. Hewitt said. “Our program is deeply connected to biblical principles relating to expression, visual communication, service to the audience, personal work ethic, and the purpose of bringing glory to God.”

“The [graphic design] field is wide open, exciting, and continuously growing and changing,” said Mr. Hewitt. The possibilities with a graphic design degree are endless. And PCC provides solid support to help students design in the creative world. ■





A Facilities Upgrade

The department recently moved their operations center to a more *spacious* and *strategic* location.

Before moving in January, Safety and Security operated from a small building at the center of campus. “Security has been dreaming of a new location,” said **Chief Reggie Bartkowski**.



Now located between Rice Tower and the Mullenix Chapel, the Safety and Security team has made many improvements with their move. The new space not only features private supervisor offices for staff members, but also an easier-to-use customer service desk so students can get the help they need when it matters most!



Isaiah Tesdall (*Sr., CA*), a student officer who is graduating in May, appreciates the initiative toward improving department operations. “I’m not going to be here much longer, but it’s nice to go out on a high note,” he said. “Our chief has done a fantastic job moving things forward. The building is much larger, and having the officer area available for training sessions and musters [briefing] is very useful. There has been a big boost to efficiency.”

The old location was right between two academic buildings, limiting team and vehicle mobility during class exchange. The Rawson location allows the team to respond more quickly to calls and emergencies. The team also improved internal efficiency with a state-of-the-art communications center in the Rawson facility. The building layout provides dispatchers with an undisturbed environment, allowing them to focus on officer operations.

The additional space also made it possible for the department to consolidate their equipment. “We had equipment stored in numerous areas around campus. Now, we have all Safety and Security equipment in one location,” said Chief Bartkowski. “The new Emergency Operations Center inside the new building will allow the Incident Command Staff to efficiently coordinate needs during any crisis.”

These changes and improvements to department operations better enable security officers as they continue to protect the safety of students, faculty, and staff. “We are so grateful and blessed to be able to have these new facilities,” said Chief Bartkowski. ■





The Update

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends

A fresh look at *your* story coming fall 2022

Everyone has a story that is uniquely their own. It's what keeps us connected. And it's people like you that inspire the stories in *The Update*—a magazine that's been encouraging readers since 1974.

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Upcoming Events

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Connections

Stories from PCC

Drs. David & Cheryl Gregory:

Through OPEN DOORS

The Gregorys have used their shared time at PCC investing in students and various ministry opportunities.



Drs. David and Cheryl Gregory have been at PCC for 32 years, first arriving on campus as freshmen in 1989. Independently, David and Cheryl were drawn to the College for its affordable and reputable education programs. Each assumed they'd attend college and return home to teach, but God had other plans.

After graduating with bachelor's degrees in 1993, both David and Cheryl began the Graduate Assistant (GA) Program. While they were friends as undergrads, they got to know each other more as GAs. David began teaching freshman history courses early on, and Cheryl was asked to help teach freshman English during her second year as a GA.

Through conversations with Denis McBride, who had taught at Pensacola Christian Academy for some time, David quickly understood the importance of being planted, especially in education. "He always talked about that idea of finding where the Lord wants you, planting yourself there, and letting Him call you away," David said. "Those that have longevity sometimes have the greater opportunities; not just because you've been around for a while, but the first-year teacher doesn't have quite the set of relationships that a ten-year teacher has."

After completing their second master's degrees, David and Cheryl married in 1998. They began serving in Youth Outreach Ministry camps that same year until each accepted administrative roles at PCC in 2003. "[Working with the youth camps] is what really showed me the true heart of this ministry," David said.

About ten years later, they began pursuing their doctorates and returned to teaching. Their administration experience allowed them to add more dimension to their graduate classes. "Whenever a door opens, you just walk through it. That's just how I've lived my whole life, and it's made for some very exciting times," said Cheryl. "I never said that I'm going to be getting my doctorate and teach on a college level. I never thought about that until that opportunity came when I was in graduate school."

The Gregorys' experience has done more than given them academic positions, but servant-hearted ones as well, and that has made all the difference. "When we're doing what we enjoy—doing what God has called us to—it's not a job; it's a ministry. It's part of the tangible and intangible, of working alongside men and women who are called as well," said David. "We're all working toward a common goal—equipping students so that they can fulfill their call." ■

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