

THE

# UPDATE

Pensacola Christian College Alumni & Friends



## *Honoring the Past*

Commemorative Edition  
—The First 25 Years—

FALL 2023

VOL. 2 ISSUE 1

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



DR. TROY A. SHOEMAKER

It's finally here: the highly anticipated 50th year of Pensacola Christian College. At this milestone, we can't help but look back on the journey that brought us to this point. It's hard to believe it's been nearly five decades since Dr. Arlin and Rebekah Horton welcomed the very first class of PCC students to campus. That year, they hosted the first Opening Convocation and the first Bible Conference—well-known and cherished campus traditions still enjoyed today. In this lead-up to our golden anniversary, we've set aside the 2023–2024 school year for the entire PCC family—including you—to celebrate.

There is truly much to be grateful for. At every crossroad, we can clearly see how God has led us and graciously provided. What we enjoy today would not exist without the dedication, sacrifice, and fervent prayers of many staff, faculty, friends, and our founders: the Hortons. No one could have known how PCC would grow and become the well-regarded institution it is now, with over 25,000 alumni influencing their world on six continents.

Today, we stand on the shoulders of giants—generations of those who committed themselves to following the Lord's call. We reflect on the past, look toward God's plan for the future, and step into that future the same way Dr. and Mrs. Horton did: one day at a time, one prayer at a time, trusting the Lord to guide our steps.

**We'd love for you to participate in the festivities this year!**

Whether you join in person or from home, you can find all the latest information at [50years.pcci.edu](https://50years.pcci.edu). This will be an unforgettable year!

And if you haven't already, share your story at [50years.pcci.edu/pcc-stories](https://50years.pcci.edu/pcc-stories). We look forward to hearing how PCC has influenced your life!

Sincerely,

Troy A. Shoemaker, Ed.D.  
President



Learn more about our  
**50th-Year  
Celebration**  
[50years.pcci.edu](https://50years.pcci.edu)



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### WHAT'S ON THE COVER?

Dr. Arlin Horton, PCC founder and president emeritus, looks over campus from Rice Tower, the newest residence hall.



# 1974-1999

The first 25 years of PCC marked a time of growth, expanding its campus and academic offerings. Now in its 50th school year, PCC is reflecting on how the Lord has blessed and provided for the ministry.



**PCC Founded:**  
Dr. Arlin and Beka Horton founded PCC 20 years after starting what is now Pensacola Christian Academy.



**PCC Seal Adopted**



**First Student Body**



**First Opening College Meeting**



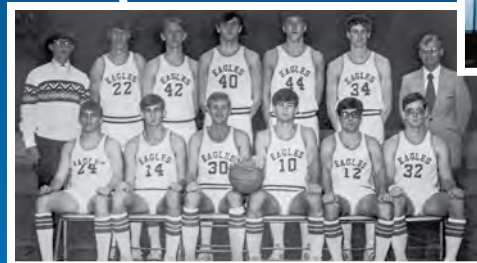
**Troy Shoemaker:**  
PCC's future president began science education degree.



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**Joel Mullenix:**  
Began as dean of students and later became vice president of PCC.



**PCC Eagles:**  
First intercollegiate basketball team

**Commons**



**Palm Logo Adopted**







**Lady Eagles Volleyball**



**Alberto and Daisy Jaffé:** Renowned musicians joined music faculty and brought the Jaffé Strings method to PCC.



**College Sign:** New Brent Lane entrance



**Library:** Named Rebekah Horton Library



**Dale Horton Auditorium**



**MacKenzie Building**

87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99



**First Holiday Concert:** Later became Christmas Lights Concert



**Palms Grille:** On-campus restaurant



**Eagor:** New name for the Eagles mascot



**Pensacola Theological Seminary** Founded

Cont. in Spring 2024 Issue





# DR. ARLIN HORTON:

## ~~A VISIONARY~~

*A Willing  
Servant*

**Now 95 years old, President Emeritus Arlin Horton honors the Lord with his ministry and legacy.**

Dr. Arlin Horton, president emeritus of Pensacola Christian College, has led his life with a desire to honor the Lord. Now in retirement, his latest adventure included getting remarried; but he's not forgetful of his past. Since he and Mrs. Beka Horton first arrived in Pensacola, Florida, in their 1935 Plymouth, he's seen what great things the Lord can do through willing servants.

### **MINISTRY THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Since its inception, PCC has offered quality Christian education at an affordable price that won't burden graduates as they follow God's calling—a goal that the Hortons prioritized. They wanted to provide a way for students locally and nationally to attend a Christian college and train to become godly leaders across the country. Using the same distinctive framework established at Pensacola Christian School (now Academy), the new college taught undergraduates with unsurpassed excellence in generalized and specialized fields through liberal arts education.

Adding to the College's affordability, the Hortons developed avenues for students to receive financial aid while studying for a degree. When Dr. Horton began his college career, he waited tables in the dining hall as part of a student work program to pay for his education. "When we started PCC, a similar program for working students was provided for them to work their way through college and graduate owing nothing or very little," he shared. "I understand this



Dr. Arlin & Wilma Horton

year PCC will have 2,000 students in their work program, and I assume many of them will graduate debt-free—what a golden opportunity to potentially graduate and step out in life debt-free.”

The Hortons’ ministry shared the gospel and provided opportunities for Christian education across the country and around the world. “I’m sure, with the culture in our country changing so fast, it may be very difficult for the Christian population to have the freedom they have today, but hopefully PCC will be able to continue with the foundational principles established through 38 years of my leadership,” said Dr. Horton. Now, carrying on their legacy, PCC and its affiliated ministries are still reaching others for Christ through Christian education.

## “ASK THE LORD FOR WISDOM IN ALL YOUR DECISION MAKING.”

Everything that Arlin and Beka Horton did, they did as a pair. Beka put feet to Arlin’s vision for Christian education, and both were well suited to their educational and administrative roles, completely trusting the Lord with what came next. “Beka was selfless, never seeking glory or attention to herself,” he explained. “She was a very good manager. She could easily see new opportunities for service. I believe the Lord used Beka more than anyone to develop and make PCC (and its ministries) what it is today.” Together, they contributed 60 years to Christian service in the Pensacola area since arriving in 1952. “It’s wonderful to look back and know that

Beka and I had leading roles in starting and guiding PCC and all its ministries and then to see they have grown with much fruit from the Lord.”

### THANKFUL FOR GOD’S PROVISIONS

Before retiring as PCC administrators in 2012, Dr. Arlin and Mrs. Beka Horton didn’t do a great deal of looking back on their personal ministry; they didn’t have the time! Each day and each hour had been filled with maintaining and improving the work set before them. And when they finally did reflect on their ministry, the Hortons always credited the Lord for the provisions and progress. “There are three things that have made us successful: God’s blessing, dedicated personnel, and a Christian philosophy of education,” said Dr. Horton.

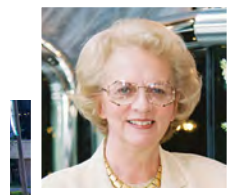
Passing the torch to the next administration allowed the Hortons to enter a new season together. After a few years of rest, Arlin began caring for Beka as her health deteriorated; and on June 27, 2020, the Lord took her home. Arlin faced loneliness through the ongoing lockdowns at the time. “I told the Lord, ‘If You want me to be single the rest

of my life, I can do it with You by my side; however, I sure

would like to have a godly mate who I could love and who would love me,’” he shared.

Even in retirement, Dr. Horton saw the Lord provide for his needs. The following April, he met Wilma Pierce, a former educator and a widow who had lost her husband of 62 years in 2017. After sharing heartfelt conversations and spending careful time in prayer, Arlin and Wilma were married privately by Dr. Joel Mullenix in Gettys Allen’s home on July 14, 2021. “Now, Wilma and I know that, because of our age, we may have a very short time together; however, we are praying that we will have several years,” he explained. “We have decided to celebrate our wedding anniversary monthly.” They have enjoyed almost 30 months together at this article’s publication. And together, they are also celebrating PCC’s 50th school year, participating in Alumni Homecoming and other special events on campus.

If the Lord tarries and allows PCC another 50 years, Dr. Horton knows how he would encourage future graduates. “Do what’s right! Keep a close walk with the Lord,” he urged, echoing advice he’s always shared with others. “Ask the Lord to give you a vision of how He could use you. Ask the Lord for wisdom in all your decision making.”



A memorial garden under the oak trees near Four Winds provides guests with a peaceful spot to pay tribute and thank God for the Hortons’ legacy.





As the Hortons praised throughout their ministry,

*"To God be the glory,  
great things He hath done!"*





# CHERYL REID

One of the First 100





Cheryl was one of four early students interviewed in the first Legacy Chapel.

## The second student to apply to PCC, Cheryl Reid, shares a legacy as timeless as the College.

A year before Pensacola Christian College officially opened in 1974, Cheryl Reid (*Elementary Education '78*) enrolled, becoming the second student to join the College's very first student body. Her aunt and uncle, Gettys and Lois Allen, who had been serving faithfully beside Dr. Arlin and Beka Horton, urged her to attend. "We're starting a college next fall; you should come!" they told her. And she did. Today, she shares a legacy alongside PCC.

### THE EARLY DAYS

That first year, PCC welcomed 100 students, all eager to gain a Christian college education. "We all knew each other—we really were like a family," Reid said, thrilled to be a part of a smaller group of students. The College had one building, Ballard, which provided everything a college campus needed, from classrooms and a library to a cafeteria and chapel auditorium.

As college life began, Reid and her classmates could see how delighted Dr. and Mrs. Horton were to have them. "You could tell they were so excited. Dr. Horton was very soft-spoken, as he is now, but he sure had a twinkle in his eye—you could catch his excitement," Reid remembered.

"Mrs. Horton realized her position as an example to the girls of godliness and what a Christian woman should be in her dress, her speech, and her mannerisms," she continued. "They were very approachable, and we knew they were very interested in our lives spiritually as well as academically."

Because the students spent practically all their time together, they got to know each other and created

traditions that are still enjoyed today. "As small as we were, the administration made sure we didn't miss out on a typical Christian college experience. We enjoyed formal dinners and the very first Turkey Bowl game," Reid recalled. "Most students probably never thought about all the work and planning that went into that first year to take care of 100 students."

**We all knew each other—  
we really were like a family.**

Reid's fondest memories from her time as a student were making friendships that have lasted over the years. "Social media has allowed me to reconnect with some and stay in close touch with others," she commented.

And while studying elementary education, Reid gained valuable experience that she's applied throughout her career. "From my very first education class, I couldn't get enough," Reid shared. "I loved learning the teaching methods that had been tried and proven in the classrooms of Pensacola Christian School [now Academy]. The teachers I studied under had all been master teachers, and their love of teaching was contagious."

After graduation, Reid began her ministry as an educator. "I always had the desire to teach," she said. As she and her husband, Dwight, moved back and forth from Florida and the Carolinas, she taught elementary



See page 27 for full photo!



grades in several Christian schools, gathering 20 years of teaching experience. “PCC had a great influence on my life,” Reid declared. “God graciously allowed me to use the principles, truths, and teaching methods I learned as a student while I worked in several Christian schools and ministries.”

With her heart for teaching children, Reid is familiar with the challenge of helping struggling students succeed—but in her years in the classroom, she always found it so rewarding to see the realization in a student’s eye when a concept had been grasped. And she kept at the forefront of her mind what she learned at PCC: using education to communicate the love of Christ. “It is always worth the extra effort to make a difference in the lives of children; to assure them that you believe in them, and to love them as Christ does,” she said.

In 2003, the Reids were living in Greenville, South Carolina, and the door was opened for Cheryl to expand her expertise, working at Majesty Music for ten years. “When Ron Hamilton learned that I enjoyed writing poetry, I had the privilege of [collaborating on] both *Patch the Pirate* songs and adult choral songs,” Reid said. “It was always a joint effort, and I learned a great deal from him.”

## THE HEARTBEAT OF EDUCATION

With a love for education matched with a skill in writing, Reid returned to her alma mater in 2017. She now

works for Abeka Publishing, writing curriculum and mentoring young writers as they begin their careers. “I’m starting my seventh year in my current position,” she said. “I’m part of a team that writes and revises elementary history and science texts; I also enjoy writing fictional stories and poetry for our elementary reading books.” As she writes and mentors, she sees the opportunity she has to continue the legacy that the Hortons began instilling back in 1974.

As a lead writer and mentor for Abeka’s elementary products, Reid is constantly challenged to research thoroughly and improve her writing techniques. She loves sharing the mission that Mrs. Beka Horton established: that the heartbeat of Christian education is getting children saved.

“Knowing that what we do in Abeka reaches thousands of students is both a blessing and a challenge,” Reid admitted. “We want to produce exceptional educational resources, but we also have the privilege and responsibility of encouraging a biblical worldview and critical thinking in the students we reach.” Looking back to the early days of PCC and the start of a rewarding career in education, Cheryl Reid is grateful that God would use her to do things for Him that stretch and grow her spiritually.

“God, who is patient and merciful, has never stopped working on me,” she said. “I am incredibly thankful for His love, His forgiveness, and His grace.”



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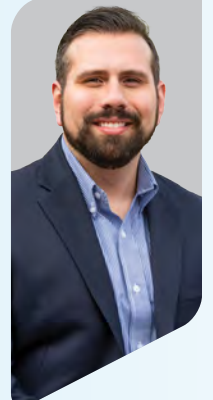
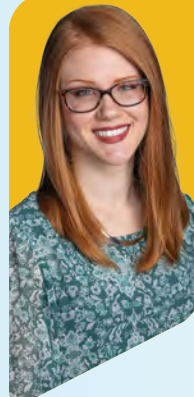
# HAVE YOU CONSIDERED

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

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# DR. JIM SCHETTLER

Faithfully & Joyfully Serving





Believers young and old are encouraged and uplifted by Dr. Jim Schettler's joyful countenance and thoughtful messages.

Those who have sat in a service with Dr. Jim Schettler (*Bible '79*) have seen him practically leap to the pulpit, eager to share the promises from his Savior. And over his 45 years of ministry, his messages have marked spiritual moments in listeners' lives. Whether pastoring, teaching, or traveling across the country, he has appreciated every opportunity to joyfully share what the Lord has laid on his heart. "You go where the Lord wants you," said Dr. Schettler. And, like many alumni, he saw God begin shaping the trajectory of his life while attending PCC.

## A DESIRE TO SERVE

When Dr. Schettler arrived at PCC in 1975, it was a little-known Christian college—one with a small student body dedicated to honoring the Lord. As Christian service ministries and Campus Church opportunities became available, he quickly "caught the spirit" and got involved in any way he could. "I got here, and I just loved serving the Lord," he said. He soon switched from speech to studying Bible. "By my second year, I knew I wanted to be in ministry."

Dr. Schettler held a variety of student leadership positions that prepared him for becoming a pastor. Throughout his college career, he served as a floor leader, the Pi Kappa Cougars collegian president and vice president, Mission Prayer Band chaplain, and Student Body president. "Those opportunities fed my passion for service," he shared. "I do not have a [specific] day that I was called to preach, but the Bible says, 'Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart' (*Psalms 37:4*).

As I've served the Lord, He just gives me another desire—I go, 'Well, that must be God'; I'm willing to do whatever God wants. The door is open, and I want to go through it."

## LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY AT PCC

After graduating from college, Dr. Jim Schettler traveled for two years as a PCC representative, preaching two to three times a day at Christian schools, summer camps, and churches. After his first year, he married Marilee (*Elementary Education '80*), and she joined him for the second year. "We didn't know where we were going to go at the end of [the] two years traveling," he explained. They made plans, and for six months, they lived in a kibbutz in Israel with Baptists for Israel Institute. "Serving with the Israelis formulated my entire ministry from that point on. We came back, and I was youth pastor of Campus Church for 7 years, then I became interim [pastor], and then pastor for 18 years."

The time Dr. Schettler led Campus Church included engaging messages, memorable illustrations, and shared memories that students, staff, faculty, and community members of that time reminisce about today. Students regularly quoted phrases and slogans that were reminders on having the right attitude when dating, refusing to gossip, keeping a clean testimony, and following God's will.

"Oh, what would we ever have done without Pastor Schettler?!" said Tina Boles (*Early Childhood '00*). "Pastor Schettler's sermons were always right on target,



DELIGHT THYSELF  
ALSO IN THE LORD:  
AND HE SHALL  
GIVE THEE  
THE DESIRES  
OF THINE HEART.

**PSALM 37:4**





useful, and packed full of wisdom. Even if I can't remember all of the titles or points of each message, the memories of sitting in the Dale Horton [Auditorium] amongst all of my classmates, being fed the Word of God by a man who so evidently loves the Lord and so strongly desires to share that with all of us, is a warm memory."

Even those who knew Dr. Schettler as a college student were encouraged by his ministry at Campus Church. "Jim was my floor leader my freshman year. I remember his sense of humor!" shared Rod See (*A.S. Printing Program '81*). "His genuine compassion and heart for the Lord shined through in all that he did. I have cooked steaks for the Men's Steak-Out ever since he introduced that ministry to the Campus Church. I remember him meeting with us in heartfelt prayer before each one."

## FOLLOWING THE LORD'S LEADING

Since 2011, Dr. Jim Schettler has been teaching modular classes on the Bible, counseling, and youth ministry at a California Bible college. When classes aren't in session, he spends the rest of the year in full-time ministry, "equipping and encouraging the saints across the country." He enjoys nothing more than helping bring others to an understanding of biblical truths. "I love to see people's faces when I'm speaking and know I'm connected with them," he shared. "Seeing the Word of God received in people's hearts, and then lived out—that's the most exciting thing. You're teaching them something from God's Word, and they go, 'You know what? I can do that! I understand now.'"

In spring 2024, Dr. Schettler will join his PCC family for Legacy Bible Conference, one of the events celebrating the College's 50th school year. He's excited to be included in the celebration. "The people of Pensacola Christian College were the tools that God used to form me in my life, my walk with the Lord, and my ministry," Dr. Schettler said. "They were my mentors, my prayer warriors, my friends who we laughed with, who we cried with—everything!"

Dr. Jim Schettler is encouraged by how he's seen God continue to work in his own life and in the lives of others. "One of the great joys that I have as I travel all over the country and all over the world is coming across our graduates that have stayed faithful. And, you know, the longer I live, it's not about abilities and talents. It's just about being faithful," he shared. "Stay faithful to the things of God." 🙌



“

## 7 STEPS FOR PERFECT DATING

BY DR. JIM SCHETTLER

"It's better to wait and know it than to date and blow it."

"Don't look for the right one: be the right one, and you'll find the right one."

"How you get them is how you keep them."

"Dating should be a delight not a duty."

"What they are now, they will always be."

"Every date is a possible mate."

"Postpone all possibilities until parents are perfectly pleased."



# INTRODUCING NEW ALUMNI

05





MNi  
-13-23

For many graduates, crossing the stage marks an end to long hours of studying, quizzes, and tests. But now it's time to apply new skills and knowledge to the field they're passionate about. Meet these brand-new alumni and see how they're beginning to influence the world for Christ.



OLIVIA SUMMERS,  
POLITICAL SCIENCE '23

## AN ADVOCATE ON CAPITOL HILL

During college, getting plugged in to Christian Service opportunities was easy for Olivia Summers (*Political Science '23*). She continues to serve the Lord today as the U.S. Government Relations Assistant for the American

Association of Christian Schools, an opportunity she discovered after connecting with an alumna through PCC's mentorship program.

As she helps monitor federal legislation, Olivia influences areas of education and religious liberty as well as pro-family and pro-life issues. "A normal day for me involves researching and reporting education policy, coordinating conferences, or representing our schools in meetings," she said. Olivia seeks to grow in her role, serve God well, and eventually get her master's degree at Hillsdale's Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship.



FRANCIS BRUNO,  
NURSING '23

## A NEW CHAPTER IN ICU

As a freshman, Francis Bruno (*Nursing '23*) thought that graduation was so far in the future. "Yet here I am, starting a new chapter of my life," he added, "[with] my job in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at Baptist Hospital."

Francis requested to work in the Intensive Care Unit for his senior preceptorship. Then after networking with other nurses and healthcare professionals, he was offered a job and accepted it. Along with invaluable skills and knowledge, Francis was equipped to acquire specific certifications. "In [NU 307] Med-Surg, we learned how to read electrocardiograms and memorize advanced cardiac life support algorithms—two areas that were vital to helping me obtain my ACLS certification," he explained. "PCC helped prepare me for this career in multiple ways."





**PERLA ZARROZOLA,**  
MEDICAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION '23

## QUALIFIED FOR GOD'S BIGGER PLANS

When Perla Zarrozola (*Medical Office Administration '23*) landed her first interview, she was ready for it. "PCC pushes you academically because they want you to be prepared once you leave," she shared. "Classes such as Business Communications

or speech have been put into practice more times than I'd like to admit." Perla gives presentations regularly as part of her new job—department administrative support for the liver transplant center at UHealth in Denver, Colorado.

Perla's job has allowed her to travel and see new places while also continuing her education with a nursing degree. "It's been an exciting time," she said. "My schedule is more flexible now, but definitely still busy." Perla hopes to run her own clinic one day and greatly benefits from current experiences. "I didn't think I would end up working in a transplant center, but God had much bigger plans."



**SYDNI KELLY,**  
ADVERTISING/PUBLIC RELATIONS '23

## UNAFRAID TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR

Sydni Kelly (*Advertising/Public Relations '23*), the Digital Marketing Specialist for Building Envelope Consultants Inc., feels honored to be an alumna. "PCC [challenged] me to be above average and strive for excellence," she admitted.

"Dr. [Lonnie] Smith taught me to never be afraid to do something because if I make a mistake, I will still learn. He also taught me to always have integrity, and how even little things can be a testimony in the workplace."

One day, Sydni would love to have her own business; but for now, she works closely with her boss, learning what she can do in the future. "To anyone struggling with their college career, just make an effort to do your best," Sydni encouraged. "Find people who can help you reach your goals and who exemplify Christ. And, most importantly, remember to do everything for God's glory."







DAVID SCHON,  
PASTORAL MINISTRIES '23

## A BALANCED LIFE OF SERVICE

PCC helped David Schon (*Pastoral Ministries '23*) prepare for daily ministry life. “Serving as collegian president, a residence assistant, and a ministerial class officer have all helped refine my leadership and communication abilities,” he explained. “My heart is full of gratitude and thankfulness toward PCC and the people who have helped me along the way.”

After marrying, he and his wife, Bethany Gamble (*Early Childhood '23*), moved back to North Carolina, where he’ll be serving at Tabernacle Baptist Church and Tabernacle Christian School as teacher and coach. As he balances his many new responsibilities, David strives to remain consistent in his Christian walk and plans to pursue an M.A. in Bible Exposition at Pensacola Theological Seminary.



RACHEL HEXAMER,  
CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY '23

## BIOLOGY WITH A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Rachel Hexamer (*Cell and Molecular Biology '23*) is looking forward to pursuing a biological sciences doctorate at the University of Delaware. “Through my graduate work in developmental biology, I hope to promote ethics in science, especially the sanctity of life, from a biblical worldview,” Rachel disclosed.

Challenging undergrad classes and in-depth material helped Rachel narrow down her specific interests in biology and think critically about complex issues. Like Dr. Sebastian Spencer and Dr. Carlos Alvarez advised and encouraged her, Rachel desires to mentor her own students one day. “I hope to pass on what I’ve learned to my future students with the same willingness to listen that my mentors had for me,” she explained.

All interview photos were provided by the corresponding alumnus.



These college graduates began exciting journeys on the first day of class, meeting new people while learning routines, skills, techniques, and so much more. After years of personal growth, hard work, and investment in their education, many of them see graduation as the end. But really, it’s just the beginning! ▶



# RUSSELL ATKINSON



**CLASSIFICATION**  
SOPHOMORE

**STUDYING**  
ENGINEERING:  
MECHANICAL

**COLLEGIAN**  
CHI SIGMA COBRAS

**HOMETOWN**  
DYER,  
INDIANA

Russell's family has had three generations attend PCC. His parents graduated in 1997 and 1998, and his grandfather earned his master's degree in 2012.

**Why did you choose to study the engineering: mechanical concentration program at PCC?** I chose mechanical engineering because I felt and saw God's gifting in my life toward math and science. There are a few different reasons I chose PCC: first was probably the excellent legacy this institution has. Having parents and a grandparent that went here has made that very obvious. I also attended engineering camp here the summer of my junior year of high school. God used that experience and especially my camp counselor to

direct me here for mechanical engineering. **What are your favorite PCC events?** I really love Fine Arts. As someone in a STEM field, I really love disconnecting [from classes] for a culturally enriching event put on by my peers and seeing their talents shine. **How has the Christian environment encouraged spiritual growth during your time here?** I look forward to Opening Convocation each semester because of the intention and effort that is put in to refocus on what really matters. Bible Conference really helps to put things on pause partway through the semester and

remember why we are even here: to serve God while we prepare to serve Him better. Even daily chapel has been helpful, inundating us with God's Word. **Can you share a time where a friend or faculty member encouraged or inspired you?** I was really concerned about my grade in Calculus 3. When I talked to my professor, Mr. [Dale] Thompson, he said, "When you go to the gym, you don't get concerned about immediate results. You just put in the daily effort and be patient. It's no different with school. Put in the work each day, no matter how much is required, and be patient."

**You mentioned having parents and grandparents who earned degrees from PCC. What has it been like to share college memories from the same campus?** It has been so cool to have grown up with PCC grads as parents, then to come here myself and to see the philosophies that they taught to me present here. I currently have professors that taught my parents and have had professors that went to class with my parents. I have a strong paternal resemblance and have been recognized by my dad's classmates without him with me.



# MCKAYLA ZACHARIAS



McKayla is a 2nd-generation alumni! Her dad, Pastor Tim Zacharias, graduated in 1989.

**CLASSIFICATION**  
JUNIOR

**STUDYING**  
YOUTH MINISTRY:  
EDUCATION

**COLLEGIAN**  
LAMBDA BETA JETS

**HOMETOWN**  
PENSACOLA,  
FLORIDA

## Why did you choose to study the youth ministry: education emphasis program at PCC?

I wanted to serve as a foreign missionary; however, the more I submerged myself in Bible classes, Christian service, nursery work, and Master Clubs through Campus Church, I fell in love with studying my Bible in depth and then taking what I learned and sharing it with young minds and hearts! Now that I understand the value of a good Christian education, PCC has proved to me that they go above and beyond in that area. My parents also greatly influenced my decision since they attended and spoke highly of their time at PCC. It's so fun to share memories of college with my parents now!

## How has the PCC community made an impact on you during your time here?

It's been a crazy two years! I've met so many amazing people that are on fire for God and serving Him wholeheartedly, and it's absolutely encouraging to see. I've been able to make friendships I know are going to last a long time. Nothing beats serving Jesus with people you love, and I'm blessed to have been able to do just that. **What are your favorite PCC events and why?** Greek Rush is special to me because I would watch the parade as a high school student with my dad, and he would describe all the things he did when he was in a collegian. Sometimes we'd pretend we were reporters as

the floats went by, or we'd pick which float was our favorite. It was always so much fun! I remember telling my dad one day I would be in the Greek Rush parade. Fast forward to my sophomore year, not only was I in the parade, but I was also designing and planning the whole event for my collegian! I love how the Lord works little things like that out for our enjoyment. **What about your student experience do you appreciate the most so far?** I so appreciate the quality of education I'm getting. Even after these few years, I feel equipped and ready to go into the world and do what God has called me to do—because of the incredible investment the staff and faculty have

made in my success, and because I'm getting a well-rounded education with a heavy emphasis on the Bible. **What kinds of extracurricular activities at PCC have you enjoyed the most and why?** I think the one thing I've loved the most is attending Christian Service. I've been attending Avondale Bible Club since the first day I could! Now, I have the privilege of serving as a leader and implementing new ideas to help Avondale grow. We've seen young kids come to know Jesus, and I truly believe it's the most rewarding thing I've ever done.



# Inclined to Worry

By Dr. Raymond Barber

*Dear Lord, I am inclined to worry too much; tell me what to do!*

**What is worry?** Worry comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning “to choke or to strangle.” Worry is a destroyer and crippler of life!

There are three days in every week when you should not worry: yesterday, today, and tomorrow. I read about a man who made what he called a Wednesday Worry Box. He put a slot in the top of the box and wrote on a piece of paper anything that came to his mind about which he was going to worry, then slipped it down in the slot. He said to himself, “I will worry about that next Wednesday.” When Wednesday rolled around, he opened the box and discovered that all the things had not come to pass.

A recent survey showed that ninety-two percent of everything people worry about never happens. Worry is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but gets you nowhere.

**How does worry affect a person?** Worry attacks the whole person. It reduces your level of achievement, depletes your body of strength, robs you of sleep, and causes trouble to your neck, back, legs, head, and heart. It brings on indigestion and ulcers. It stalls the engine of your life and puts your life in reverse. It wastes your body, cankers your soul, dampens your spirit, and dulls your mind. In other words, it affects you mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

There are four main causes for worry.

1. Thinking of what you do not have instead of what you do have: We spend our time thinking, “*If I just had . . . If I just had . . .*”

Don’t spend time thinking about what you do not have and the places where you have not been. Rather, think about what you do have and where you have been. Take inventory!

**“Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done!”**

2. Refusing to face life as it is: Life is not a bed of roses. We have to face the reality of our lives. We must bring our burdens to the Lord and leave them there!

3. Centering your thoughts on yourself instead of those around you: Some people’s lives are like islands—self on the north, self on the south, self on the east, and self on the west. Self, self, self—always thinking about self! Let’s start thinking about others.

4. Failing to exercise faith in God: Faith is the victory that overcomes the world, and faith will overcome worry.

**How can worry be overcome?** We cannot overcome worry by using drugs, alcohol, sedatives, tranquilizers, or by making good resolutions. Deliverance from worry and having perfect peace come when we keep our minds stayed on God. “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (*Isa. 26:3*).

The divine prescription for overcoming worry is Philippians 4:

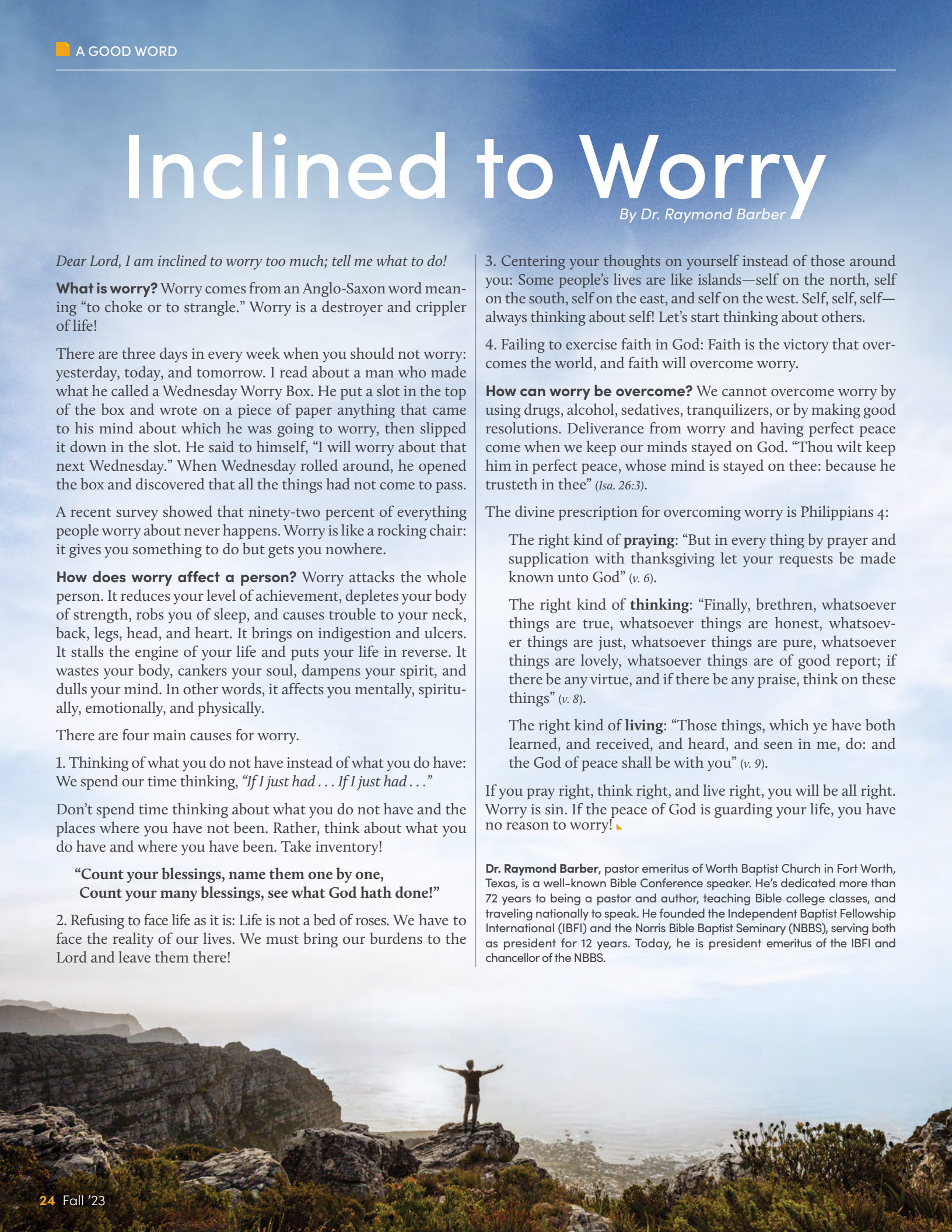
The right kind of **praying**: “But in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (*v. 6*).

The right kind of **thinking**: “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (*v. 8*).

The right kind of **living**: “Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you” (*v. 9*).

If you pray right, think right, and live right, you will be all right. Worry is sin. If the peace of God is guarding your life, you have no reason to worry! ▴

**Dr. Raymond Barber**, pastor emeritus of Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, is a well-known Bible Conference speaker. He’s dedicated more than 72 years to being a pastor and author, teaching Bible college classes, and traveling nationally to speak. He founded the Independent Baptist Fellowship International (IBFI) and the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary (NBBS), serving both as president for 12 years. Today, he is president emeritus of the IBFI and chancellor of the NBBS.







# LEGACY BIBLE CONFERENCE

February 28–March 1, 2024

Join us for the 50th Bible Conference!  
Beloved alumni and friends are returning to share from God's Word.  
Nourish your soul with biblical truth and uplift your heart in Christlike community.



Dr. Raymond  
Barber



Dr. Johnny  
Pope



Dr. Richard  
Wallace



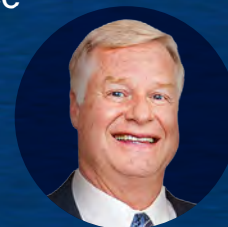
Pastor Dave  
Goforth, '93



Pastor Ernie  
Merritt, '90



Dr. Jeff  
Redlin, '87



Dr. Jim  
Schettler, '79



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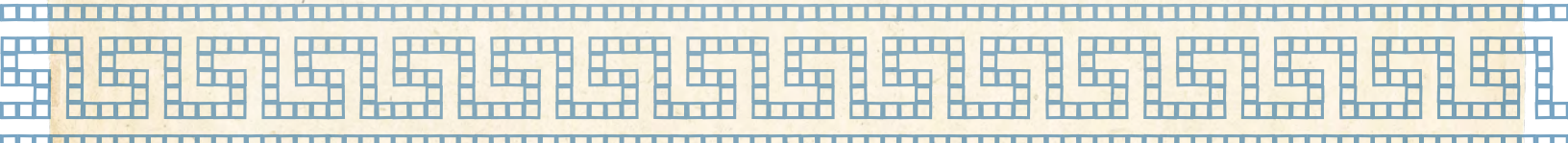
# GREEK LIFE



## THE HISTORY OF COLLEGIAN SPIRIT



On a campus with thousands of students, collegian life can play a great role in the friendships PCC students make. The student-led organizations have been a defining feature of the student body since the inception of the College; and despite growing and changing, they've meaningfully impacted the lives of students and graduates. "It helped with having a sense of belonging," recalled Kaylee Jones (*Elementary Education '10*), former Phi Sigma Pirates member. "I remember looking forward to collegian meetings, making new friends, and being happy to belong to a 'club' of new people."







## THE COLLEGIAN EXPERIENCE

One of new students' first experiences on campus is choosing a collegian. In early Greek Rush events, members enthusiastically yelled their collegian's name as loudly as they could to convince new members to join. Today, new students excitedly weave through booths on Main Drive, meeting current members before seeing how the collegians display their creativity in the Greek Rush Parade. Within these groups, students cheer on or play alongside each other in sports, serve together in Christian Service, and enjoy exclusive Members-Only Outings.

What started as 4 collegians steadily grew to 48—22 men's and 26 women's collegians. Each has up to 90 members and holds meetings every 3 to 4 weeks. These smaller groups provide a casual atmosphere for new students. "PCC was an overwhelming size for me, having come from a small church and small Christian school," said Diane Bales (*Early Childhood '95*), who joined the Pi Delta Indians. Being in a collegian "allowed me to meet people and see friendly faces throughout my day on campus. One collegian member was hired to teach at the same school as me after we graduated, so we rented an apartment together."





## THE FOUR PILLARS



Together, collegian members can support and encourage each other through the Four Pillars of Greek life: Unity, Academics, Leadership, and Service. The Four Pillars were introduced in 2015 to add structure and categories to the ways members can earn points for their collegians. The Unity category promotes friendships through shared experiences such as collegian sports and outings, Academics encourages developing excellence through study groups, Leadership invites students to take ownership by directing projects and events, and Service assists others on campus and in the community. Collegians with the most points earn recognition, awards, and additional funds to invest back into their group.

Grant Wood (Sr., WA), a current Iota Chi Stingrays member, appreciates how his collegian regularly provides a productive atmosphere. “At the end of the day, we are here at college to get a degree,” he shared. “A lot of us encourage each other and help each other study. The biggest tool has been asking guys in my collegian who are older than me for advice about classes, teachers, and study habits.”

All PCC students can grow and develop necessary skills for future careers or ministries through leadership opportunities. During her senior year, Misty Graham (*Elementary Education '04*) was president of the Chi Epsilon Timberwolves, an experience that grew her. “I had to do things I never would have done otherwise as a quiet, stand-offish person,” she said. “It added more responsibility to my already hectic life but helped me grow as a person. I have been put in other leadership roles in the real world, and I am so thankful for the experience I had at PCC.”

## A LASTING IMPACT

One of the best parts about collegians is how they bring students together to make lasting memories and build enduring friendships. “When you join a collegian, you join something that is bigger than yourself,” said Mark Ward (*General Studies '93, M.A. '17*), former Zeta Chi Hawks member. “You get to meet so many guys from different backgrounds and places. The collegian enabled me to make lasting friendships and helped me get to know other students at PCC. It was a family atmosphere—both during the collegian meetings as well as participating in extracurricular activities.”

Collegians have their own personalities, but all share the same foundational purpose to provide well-rounded experiences for the student body. And as former members have shown, these memories are carried fondly long after one’s college days are over. “Collegian was really about opportunity,” shared Cranston Knowles (*Evangelism '93, M.S. '95, M.A. '04, Ed.S. '06*), former Alpha Omega Crusaders member. “It was a place of opportunity where even I can make a difference in the midst of a big college. College could be a place you get a degree to get a job, but being part of a small group like a collegian where you’re able to play sports, create teamwork and opportunities—that is what made the college experience valuable.”







## Let's Celebrate Together!

Every year, students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends of PCC gather on campus to watch a favorite Christmas tradition centered on our Savior.

Whether watching in person or through livestream, enjoy a concert that shares "joy to the world" through sacred holiday hymns and fun Christmas carols with a synchronized light show!

**November 28 • 6 p.m. CT**



**Make plans to attend or view on [watch.pcci.edu!](http://watch.pcci.edu)**

*Watch PCC provides livestream and on-demand viewing, available online or on Roku, Google TV, or Apple TV.*



WATCH PCC

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

# EXPERIENCE PCC THIS SPRING



## EXPLORE PCC

A one-day snapshot of college life where you'll take guided tours visiting classes and our beautiful campus.

February 16 & April 19, 2024



## COLLEGE DAYS

A three-day, fully customizable college visit where you can explore at your own pace and be fully immersed in college life.

March 21–22 & April 4–5, 2024



## COLLEGE GETAWAY

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February 21–24, 2024

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Choose your perfect visit at [go.pcci.edu/SeeCampus](http://go.pcci.edu/SeeCampus)



# Called to Teach

Pensacola Christian College faculty choose to make a difference in students' lives through Christian liberal arts education.

Teaching students to become leaders who influence the world for Christ—this is an end goal of each faculty member across the PCC campus. Over the years, faculty have encouraged, coached, and advised students through well-prepared lessons for a variety of professional careers and ministries. In their classrooms, “ah-ha” moments become steppingstones toward the fulfillment of God’s calling. Anyone in education knows that choosing to invest in students’ lives takes personal sacrifice, but it’s a decision that longtime PCC faculty have never regretted.







MISS CHEE YUM

## TRAINING A CHRISTIAN WORKFORCE

In 2003, Miss Chee Yum was an integrated circuit design engineer in Maine when a traveling PCC Ensemble team visited her church, inspiring her to teach at a Christian college. Since 2005, Miss Yum has been teaching electrical engineering courses, advising students, and creating and preparing lectures and lab experiments. She also tests program-level learning outcomes each semester as part of PCC's ABET accreditation. "PCC is the greatest place to work," she shared. "The people you meet and work with are godly and most importantly everyone working at PCC has one common goal—to serve God."

After they graduate, Miss Yum's students are equipped to enter their careers with a Christlike spirit and eagerness to improve. "I enjoy teaching and training my students to be Christian engineers with problem-solving skills in mind," she said. "As I have always told my students, if it is not challenging, then it is not worth doing. The more challenging a task is, the more rewarding the result."

Throughout her time here, Miss Yum has felt encouraged to continue providing the best learning experiences for her students. "I am impressed with the support that I have in my department," she explained. "I have the liberty to recommend or suggest the purchase of equipment with my [department] chair that will support my classes as well as my coworkers."

## FINDING FULFILLMENT

Dr. Joyce Pate has been training PCC nursing students since 1988, joining faculty after starting as an Intensive Care Unit nurse in a local Pensacola hospital. "I thought after [a 3-year contract] that I would be done with the job—here I am, 35 years later, still at PCC and loving my job!" she shared. "The dean and chair of Nursing care about me and try to assign courses that I love to teach. They often express appreciation for what I do."

Over the years, she's learned to lean on her coworkers and has appreciated support when faced with difficult moments in her life. "When I became a caregiver for my mom, they were so helpful," Dr. Pate explained. "Dean [Denise] McCollim (known for being a fabulous baker) often sends baked goods home for my mom. It's the little things that are so nice!"

And Dr. Pate has loved seeing her students go on to work in hospitals across the country and as medical missionaries around the world. "The rewards of teaching nursing students who will go out into the world and reach others for the Lord is the icing on the cake," she said. "I am so thankful the Lord placed me here."



DR. JOYCE PATE



DR. JONATHAN SPARKS

## EMBRACING THE CALL

Dr. Jonathan Sparks arrived as a computer science/software engineering student. Fast forward to 2023, he's been a computing faculty member at PCC for 15 years. "I interviewed at several different technology companies and had several opportunities available to me. However, one by one, God kept closing the door and opening the door to stay and teach at the College," he shared. "It was God's leading to open an opportunity for me to teach and to transition to be a co-laborers with the faculty who taught me."

His wife, Janae (*History 'ro*), has been staff in the PCC IT Department since 2011. They feel blessed to work in the same ministry and appreciate the on-campus childcare and Pensacola Christian Academy discount offered to PCC employee families. "It is really unique to have an organization that my whole family is a part of," said Dr. Sparks. "PCC has more families working for it than I think most workplaces. I've personally enjoyed having the whole family heading in the same direction every day, going to work/school together, having a free lunch with my wife at work, and going home together. It's such a unique opportunity that I don't think many people get to have."

No matter the class or academic area, PCC faculty know that teaching is more than a job—it's a calling. "It's hard to understand all of the blessings God can provide when you are in His will," Dr. Sparks explained. "Seek God and He will lead." 📖



Check [go.pcci.edu/JoinUs](https://go.pcci.edu/JoinUs) to see available employment opportunities!





# PCC'S FALL CELEBRATION

This year, several distinctive events are taking place in the fall semester as Pensacola Christian College celebrates its 50th year of God's goodness.

## *Legacy Chapels*



*Dr. Greg Mutsch*

During this fall semester, students and guests have the unique opportunity to attend four Legacy Chapels. Each service highlights a different decade of PCC history, showing the student body the full picture of God's goodness to the ministry and inviting them to celebrate with the College.

The Legacy Chapels follow the story of PCC and celebrate all that God has done for the College. "Of course, the College's history will be presented in these chapels—but history is only a part," said Dr. Greg Mutsch, vice president of Institutional Advancement. "There's something about being involved in a celebration. Facts get dry, faces run together after a while. This celebration doesn't just belong to the Hortons, who founded it, or Dr. Troy Shoemaker, the current president; this celebration belongs to the students too. In fact, it's part of their story."

## *Flashback Friday Meals*



*Mr. Toby Baker*

Campus Dining Services are participating in the celebration through Flashback Friday meals in Four Winds, offering a special array of food following the decade theme of each Legacy Chapel. Each menu promises a different spread of favorite entrées, sides, and desserts. Since the first Legacy Chapel honored the PCC founders, the menu brought back favorites from early in the College's history. Some menu items include Mrs. Joan Taylor's meatloaf, creamy macaroni and cheese, and apple pie.

"Food is such an integral part of the college experience, remembered just as well as a favorite teacher or Fine Arts performance," shared Mr. Toby Baker, director of Dining Services. "Flashback Friday is an opportunity for the current students to 'get a taste' of what was favorite to previous students over the past 50 years."

PCC's size and student body have changed drastically since its first year, but the mission has not. For PCC students, staff, faculty, and friends to remember God's goodness and rejoice in what He has done for our past and see that some things are very different.



In 1974, Pensacola Christian College founders Dr. Arlin and Beka Horton stepped out in faith and began a small Christian college. God blessed their step of faith, and PCC has grown substantially, standing as a testament to His goodness. To celebrate this legacy, several events throughout the 2023–2024 school year have been planned. Visit [50years.pcci.edu](https://50years.pcci.edu) to learn more!

## Gala

Faculty and friends of PCC are invited to take part in the 50th-year celebration. In October, students, staff, faculty, and guests are gathering in the Crowne Centre for the Gala. “The Gala is an epic praise moment for the College to reflect on God’s goodness toward the ministry,” said Miss Liz Thomason, artistic director for the event.

Through the sacred pieces played during the Gala, audience members are encouraged to praise the Lord for the many great things He has done. This special event includes instrumental pieces, choral arrangements, and a theatrical scene. “Each selection holds some level of significance to the College,” said Miss Thomason. Throughout the evening, long-time members of the PCC family who were influential in PCC’s history are honored with the highest level of distinction.

Locations for photo opportunities can be found in the main Crowne Centre plaza, and art installations stand in the hallways between each lobby and atrium. “This made the evening more interactive for our audience and really encompassed the artistic talent that the College houses and promotes,” Miss Thomason explained. The Gala features a variety of selections performed by students, staff, faculty, and alumni.



Miss Liz Thomason

## Alumni Homecoming

Alumni from all over the country are returning to their alma mater to take part in PCC’s celebration. “Alumni Homecoming was started years ago as a way for people to come back to reconnect with friends and classmates and to reconnect with PCC,” shared Mr. Brad Mullenix, director of Alumni Services.

This year is no different. Events like the Pre-Gala Alumni Reception, Reunion Brunch, and the Alumni Dinner with special guests encourage alumni to reconnect with old friends, while the Dolphin Cruise fosters opportunities to make new ones. And because PCC is celebrating its 50th year, Alumni Homecoming now includes a trip to Pensacola’s National Naval Aviation Museum. “[I look forward to] all the people coming back, seeing old friends and classmates, and getting caught up on where God has placed them. This Homecoming—full of memories and nostalgia—is like no other Homecoming before it,” Mr. Mullenix said.



Mr. Brad Mullenix



Limited-Edition

# 50TH MERCHANDISE

Join the celebration—show your PCC spirit with legacy merch!

**Clothing**  
**Drinkware**  
**Accessories**  
**and more**



Shop 50th items at  
the Campus Store or  
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## DECEMBER

**1** Legacy Chapel: '80-'89

## JANUARY

**21-24** Opening Convocation

Start the spring semester of the 50th school year with a focus on God's Word. Hear from incredible speakers—plus see footage from memorable opening meetings.

## FEBRUARY

**9** Legacy Chapel: '90-'99

**10** Fine Arts Series: Liberty Voices

### FEBRUARY/MARCH

**28-1** Legacy Bible Conference

Hear from speakers who have left a legacy on our hearts: Dr. Jim Schettler, Dr. Johnny Pope, Dr. Richard Wallace, Pastor Ernie Merritt, Pastor Dave Goforth—and other alumni and friends!

## MARCH

**8** Legacy Chapel: '00-'09

**12-14** Enrichment Retreat

## APRIL

**12** Legacy Chapel: '10-'23

**12-14** Enrichment Retreat

## MAY

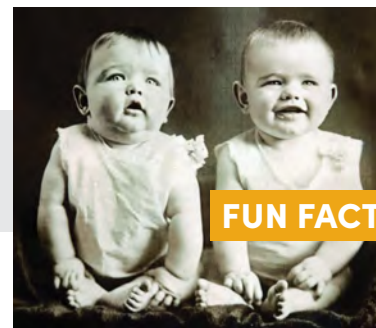
**2-4** Fine Arts Series: *The Sound of Music*

In this classic musical set during World War II, free-spirited nun-in-training Maria Rainer helps Austrian naval officer Captain Georg von Trapp reconnect with his children.

**3** Time Capsule Ceremony

**12-13** Commencement

Dr. Arlin Horton, president emeritus and PCC founder, has a twin sister. He and Anita were born April 29, 1928, in Eugene, Oregon.



**FUN FACT!**



**PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE.**

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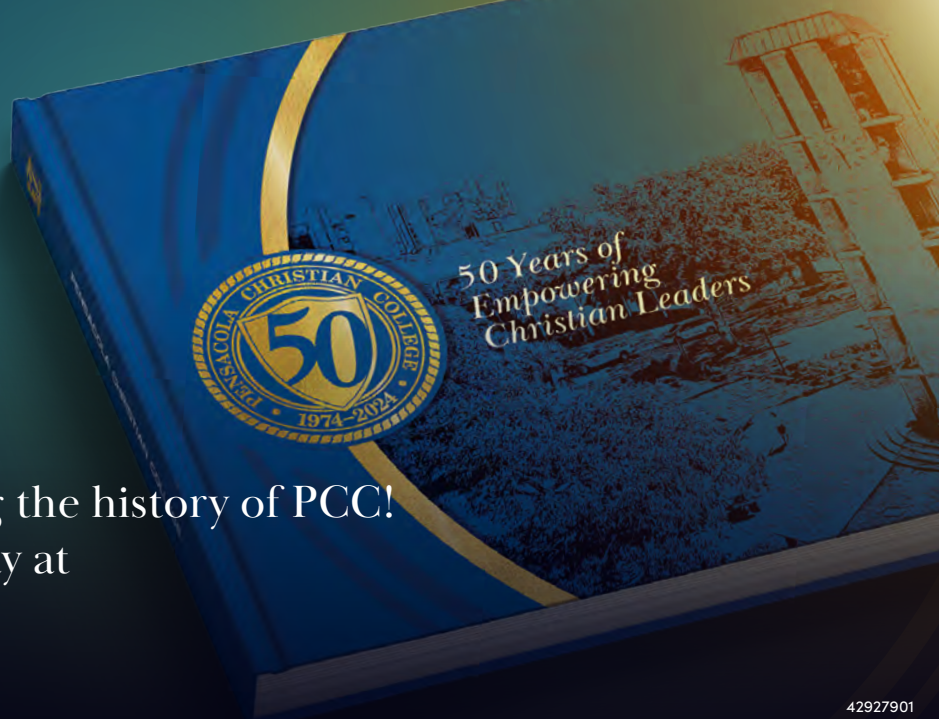
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Celebrate the rich history with this stunning commemorative book. It's a treasure trove of memories showcasing the events and milestones that shaped Pensacola Christian College into who we are today. With nostalgic photography and classic design, it's the perfect way to remember your part of the story.



Join us in celebrating the history of PCC!  
Order your copy today at  
[pcci.edu/50thBook](http://pcci.edu/50thBook)