

UPDATE

Pensacola Christian College Alumni & Friends

A Legacy in Christian Education with a Vision for the Future

See how PCC holds to
timeless traditions
while embracing
growth and innovation

PAGE 4



FROM THE
PRESIDENT



DR. TROY A. SHOEMAKER

For almost five decades, the Lord has blessed PCC as we “empower leaders to influence the world for Christ.” Known for standing on unchanging principles, we’re also constantly building a vision for the future. Visiting alumni frequently marvel at the way PCC has adapted to the changing needs of the 21st century, strengthening academic programs and improving the college experience while preserving the essence of who we are.

Starting this fall, we’ll be celebrating those five decades—and PCC’s 50th anniversary festivities won’t be the same without **you**. The entire year will be packed with exciting ways to look back on our history and commemorate what God has done. We’re planning a special Opening Convocation, the biggest Alumni Homecoming ever, an incredible Gala Concert, familiar speakers for Legacy Bible Conference and Legacy Chapels, a time capsule, and so much more—even fun everyday details like nostalgic menu items that will return to the dining facilities.

How can you be part of the celebration? Two ways:

First, share your story! We’d love to know your favorite memories and hear how God has used PCC in your life. Check out 50years.pcci.edu/pcc-stories to learn more.

Second, come and join us! Whether you attend in person or follow along from home, head over to 50years.pcci.edu to sign up for email updates and see event details, livestreams, photos, stories, and news

Don’t miss the opportunity to make new memories throughout this unforgettable year.

Sincerely,

Troy A. Shoemaker

Troy A. Shoemaker, Ed.D.
President



Learn more about our
50th Anniversary
Celebration
50years.pcci.edu



MAGAZINE
CREDITS

CONTENT MANAGER

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

PRODUCTION MANAGERS

Carrie Seymour ('18, M.A. '20)

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

EDITORIAL STRATEGIST

Samantha Allen ('18)

EDITOR

Jessica Hall ('20)

ART DIRECTOR

Aaron Ebert ('93)

PROOFREADERS

Jessica Hall ('20)

Linda Tutton

WRITERS

Samantha Allen ('18)

Julia Hansen ('21)

Jessica Jainchill ('17, M.S. '19)

Kimberly Kuntz ('19, M.S. '21)

Jennifer Twigg

('04, M.S. '06, M.S. '10)

Bonnie Webb ('12)

GUEST WRITERS

Daye Goforth ('92)

Dr. Phyllis Rand

(M.S. '80, Ed.D. '84)

PRINT DESIGNER

Rachel Perrigo ('19, M.A. '21)

MARKETING STRATEGISTS

Zach Custer ('20)

Louie Stewart ('19)

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Casie Bento ('10)

Chris Caldwell ('22)

Todd Chappell ('91)

Esther Hallman ('13, M.F.A. '16)

Brandon Lane ('23)

Bella Martin ('20)

Deena-Leigh Stapleton ('19)

Kathryn Stephenson

('20, M.A. '23)

Rick Rivera ('22, M.A. '25)

Nathan Van Etten ('10)

Madison Weldy ('23)

DIGITAL MEDIA DESIGNERS

Karina Gallegos ('19)

Megan Zacharias ('17)

SPECIAL THANKS

Casie Bento ('10)

Abigail Cannon ('17, M.A. '19)

Tim Keenan ('99)

Monica Koepfer ('06)

Dr. Jon Lands ('91)

Lauren McCollim ('11, M.B.A. '13)

Dwight Reid

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

Dr. Troy Shoemaker

('89, M.S. '94, Ed.D. '07)

IN THIS ISSUE



14



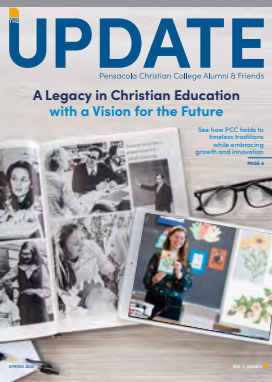
07



30

WHAT'S ON THE
COVER?

The cover uses a historic *Summit* yearbook and an iPad to show that, while PCC's classrooms grow and change, its educational mission and purpose has stayed the same.



CONTENTS

04

FEATURE TOPIC

Traditional Learning through the Lens of Faith

07

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Bible Conference

10

ALUMNI FEATURE

Dr. David Hurst

14

ALUMNI IN MINISTRY

Josh and Rebecca Florence

18

SEASONAL

PTS 25th Anniversary

22

STUDENT Q&As

The Modern PCC Student

24

A GOOD WORD

Enjoy Your Flight

26

TOPICAL

Scholarships and Donors

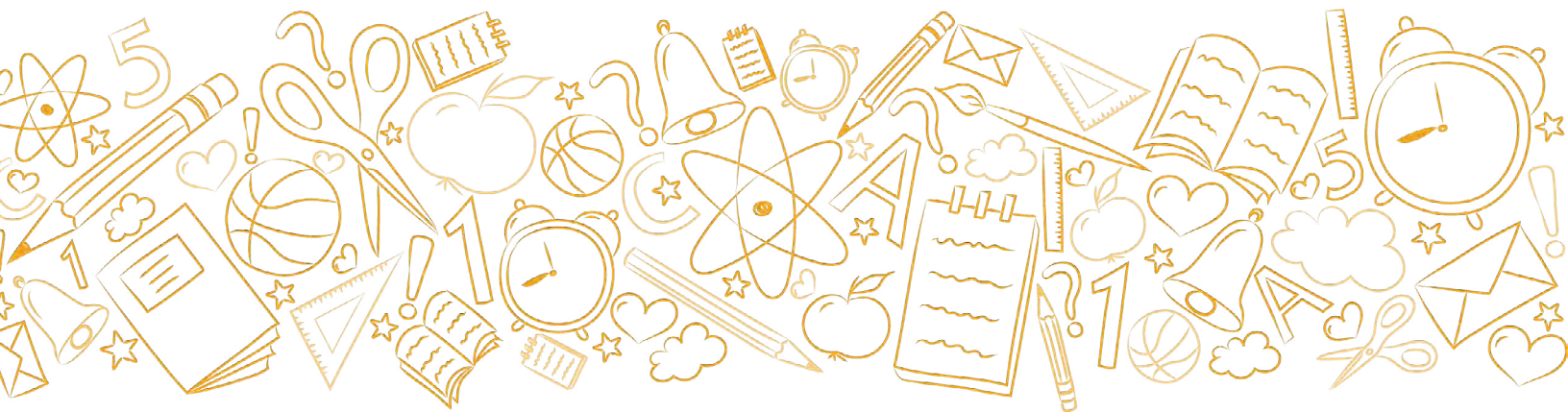
30

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

The Hands That Work

35

CALENDAR OF
UPCOMING EVENTS



Dr. Phyllis Rand

Traditional Learning through the *Lens of Faith*

In our current culture, colleges and universities are constantly changing. In many instances, those changes expose an emphasis on left-leaning politics, cultural revolution, post-modern relativism, and personal/group identity and empowerment and every other kind of social activism.

In contrast, Pensacola Christian College, soon to enter its fiftieth year, was founded and has consistently operated with the traditional, centuries-old purposes of educating the whole person, valuing biblical truth and purpose in life, and striving for excellence and orderliness in all aspects of life and work. These are PCC's traditions.

These traditions can be summed up as a *Christian, traditional philosophy of education*. Granted, terminology picks up nuance and even changes in meaning if used for very long and by different people. In PCC's usage, *traditional* is associated with the worldview that best fits the biblical view of man and his purpose. It is associated with the life of the mind—the “big questions.” What is truth? How do we find it? What is the best way to live? This traditional learning is meaningful when viewed through the lens of faith. Hence, a *Christian, traditional philosophy*.

EXPLAINING TRADITIONAL EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

Traditional may sound out of step or even passé, so it is worth noting that PCC does not reject innovation or change, nor does it cling mindlessly to the past.

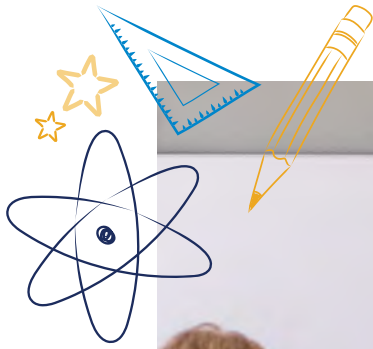
Traditional is used in contrast to *progressive* education, which is secular and humanistic. It was the development of those who rejected the Christian worldview and transferred their faith to evolution and psychology. It is more than pedagogical freedom, as some think. It is the greatest force in what Henry Morris calls “the war against God.” At its very start, progressivism was a social reform movement. According to John Dewey, “**Education is the fundamental method of social progress and reform.**”

When John Dewey and others first propagated the new progressive philosophy in the early 1900s, most teachers probably still thought children needed to be taught skills and information and trained in

righteousness. Consequently, for a time, progressivism simmered in the ivory towers of graduate schools of education and psychology. But Dewey, and others who saw themselves as instruments of change, kept writing and teaching until progressivism eventually worked its way down to local schools through the newly trained teachers and administrators. Such is the powerful part played by colleges and universities in the spread of now dominant progressive ideologies such as Critical Race Theory (CRT).

So, when we speak of traditional and progressive ideology, we are speaking of two different ways of looking at the world and at education. Because philosophy informs thinking and practice, it is not surprising that the purposes of traditional and progressive educators are very different. Because PCC has a Christian worldview, its purposes align more with traditional education than progressive education.





TEACHING ETERNAL TRUTH

A Christian, traditional worldview acknowledges that there are biblical absolutes and objective truths. There are character traits, actions, and ideas that are good and bad. There are eternal truths. There is right and wrong.

To a progressivist, nothing is always true or always false or good or bad. Truths change, values change. New “truths” can be built through experience and group judgment. Today, the full flowering of this thinking is evidenced on college campuses and in American culture generally—to the point that any claim to right or wrong is considered discriminatory and should not be allowed to exist.

To teach eternal truths, traditional instruction is teacher-directed, structured, and curriculum oriented. Individual accountability and biblical character development are important aspects of traditional learning. Most classes contain elements of reading, writing, and language because Christianity is a religion of the Word. The careless use of language blunts the edge of our greatest tool. A liberal arts curriculum based in excellent language skills and on biblical foundations creates a thriving environment for learning.

Now, more than ever, there is a great need for excellent Christian, traditional education. PCC was founded for this purpose and the purpose has not changed. ▴



Dr. Phyllis Rand
(Elementary Education '80, Ed.D. Elementary Education '84), now retired, has over 40 years of service in Christian education ranging from teaching sixth grade to graduate and post-graduate classes. After serving as the elementary administrator at Pensacola Christian School, she joined PCC faculty in 1987 and served as the first Chair of Education. While working at Abeka, she wrote language arts textbooks and developed curriculum. She also authored *Builders of the Dream*, a collaboration with Dr. Arlin and Mrs. Beka Horton to chronicle their lives and ministry in Pensacola, Florida.



BIBLE CONFERENCE 2023

A LIFE-CHANGING TRADITION

Since 1974, PCC has paused academics to focus on the Word of God during the annual spring Bible Conference.

Every spring since 1974, Pensacola Christian College has purposefully set aside several days to worship together, praise God, and listen to life-changing Bible teaching from well-known pastors and speakers. This year featured Pastor Matt Allen of Capital City Baptist Church (Papua New Guinea), Pastor Tim Butler of People's Baptist Church (NC), Dr. Johnny Pope of Christchurch Baptist Fellowship (TX), and Dr. Scott Tewell of Rosedale Baptist Church (MD).

Although college schedules are packed with classes, work, athletics, and much more, PCC prioritizes spiritual growth. Taking time to set aside busyness allows staff, faculty, and students to make a concerted effort to examine their hearts and be spiritually revived. Pastor Butler shared, “Bible Conference is a time to hit the reset button to maintain a close personal walk with God.”



THE UNCHANGING PURPOSE

Bible Conference is a tradition that has and will continue to inspire generations. Both students and speakers found truth to apply to their spiritual lives. Freshman Joshua Small (NH) appreciated the biblical truths and guidance each service shared. “I was encouraged to have a more active walk with God and to go to God more often than I have been for spiritual needs,” he said.

While focusing on God, Priscilla Tobing (Fr., Indonesia) felt that He had many things to say directly to her. “I liked Dr. Pope’s message about forgiving,” she said. “As a believer, I know that we must forgive others, but it is so hard. But after listening to Dr. Pope’s message that day, I feel very encouraged to ask God for wisdom to forgive myself and others.”

From his experience, Pastor Butler added, “God often provides direction and answers for things I’ve

sought Him for while listening to my fellow speakers. Many [students and preachers today] can point back to a message at Bible Conference that radically altered their course of life. Many revivals of the past began in similar settings. My heart burns to see it happen again!”

Pastor Allen agrees with PCC that focusing on the Word of God is important for practicing faith. “Continuing to hold the Bible Conference reminds us that [we share faith with] 2,000 years of believers,” he said. “There is a rich heritage of godly people who have loved the Word of God, and there will continue to be many others after us, if the Lord tarries.”

REFRESHMENT FOR BODY AND SOUL

To add relaxation to this academic break, Wednesday brought a themed picnic on Eagle Field. This year, the field was transformed into the Wild West with related games, snacks, and entertainment.

Since it’s her first semester, transfer student Laney Mastrovito (So., FL) got to experience the College in a new light. “From the wonderful speakers to the rodeo that was put on by our school, [PCC] showed me how much they truly care about us. To me, that speaks volumes,” she explained. Laney loved the picnic too. “There was a lot of great food, and it was fun to see everyone outside just enjoying the community here.”



Joshua also enjoyed visiting food stands and enjoying the themed games with friends. “The cringey jokes [emcees told] over the intercom made me laugh,” he added. “It was definitely relaxing having the break.”

Not only do students and faculty get a physical and mental respite, but they attend conference sessions ready to have their spirits nourished and moved. Laney recalled what a student leader shared during

the Wednesday praise service, “Keep [your] hearts and ears open to what’s about to be preached because you don’t want to miss what God has for you. Treat this as an opportunity to grow closer to the Lord and to learn from these messages something truly inspiring and lifechanging.” This encouragement solidified Laney’s mindset for the week. “To hear other students say this and be on fire for God was contagious,” she said.

Pastor Allen continually finds his time on campus refreshing. “There is a different atmosphere within the student body,” he said. “And perhaps that is tied to the intentionality of pulling away from classwork to focus on the Word of God. I certainly find it to be a spiritually healthy exercise.” And when interacting with the students, he has noticed that so many sincerely love the Lord and want to serve Him with their lives. “When I’m surrounded by several thousand young people who are focused on seeking God, I come away encouraged about the next generation of leaders.”

There is a rich heritage of godly people who have loved the Word of God.



Bible Conference is a time to hit the reset button to maintain a close personal walk with God.



Caring for the *Smallest Hearts*

*As a pediatric cardiologist,
Dr. David Hurst uses his medical skills
and compassion to help children
with heart problems.*



Dr. David Hurst

“God leads us each day with individual decisions and asks us to listen to His still, small voice as we take each step,” said Dr. David Hurst (*Pre-Medicine '98*), describing his journey to becoming a doctor. These

little steps, combined with his passion for helping children with medical issues, led him to become a pediatric cardiologist.

INFLUENCED TO SERVE

From his parents to the teachers who invested in his education and spiritual growth, godly influences encouraged Dr. Hurst to continue following that “still, small voice.” His parents were examples of compassion as they served at Pensacola Christian College, investing in students’ futures. Their compassion for others impressed Dr. Hurst to pursue a career in medicine. In 1994, he enrolled in the PCC pre-medicine program and began his medical training.

Dr. Hurst attended PCC because it offered the qualities he wanted in a pre-medicine degree—specifically, teachers who cared about his education and would encourage him to his full potential. “For me,” he recalled, “PCC was a school that said, ‘We know what is going to be required when you leave here, and we want to make sure you’re ready.’”

Thinking back on his PCC days, Dr. Hurst remembers how faculty member Dr. Robert McLaughlin invested his Saturday mornings into helping Dr. Hurst prepare for the MCAT exam, a test required for medical school entrance. “PCC continues to be a part of my life,” Dr. Hurst said. “The hurdles one overcomes during college years and the friends made can continue to make a difference through all the stages of life.” He believes that the rigorous academics he encountered at PCC and his dedicated teachers are what truly prepared him for his future.

A HEART FOR CHILDREN

Once he graduated from PCC, Dr. Hurst entered medical school and began working with child patients. He quickly realized what he wanted to specialize in. “Taking care of children brought so much joy,” he said. “Their resilience and their parents’ desire to come alongside the medical team really impacted me.”

After medical school, Dr. Hurst spent three years in general pediatric residency. Wanting to specialize his practice after six years as a general pediatrician, he entered a 3-year fellowship in pediatric congenital cardiology. “The field of congenital cardiology is so unique because it involves the way the heart forms and, at times, doesn’t form correctly. In medical school, it was a fascinating field that drew me,” said Dr. Hurst.

Dr. Hurst pulled from the biblical foundation and quality education he received at PCC as he continued his training and refined his goals. “We get some of the highest quality students in the department because of their goals,” said Dr. Shane Smith, chair of natural sciences at PCC. “They want to give their life to the Lord and serve others. They want to be prepared, but they also want a firm, strong foundation, so regardless of what they’re taught, they’ll be able to recognize and know truth. And they’ll use it as part of their whole mindset in their career.”

The high academic standards and biblical foundation at PCC prepare and motivate pre-medicine students to be exceptional in their profession. By learning from faculty who cared about his long-term goals, Dr. Hurst grew through his science work, research assignments, and medical volunteer opportunities. “This was all preparatory for me,” he shared.

PASSION BUILT ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

When Dr. Hurst finished his fellowship training, he accepted a position in Knoxville at East Tennessee Children’s Hospital, where he has been on medical staff since 2014. As his teachers invested in him, Dr. Hurst now invests in his patients. His education at PCC gave him the foundation to “tend to patients with compassion, honesty, and integrity,” making him a comforting presence for parents and children.

Over the phone, Dr. Hurst advises parents regarding surgical planning for their children. During these conversations, he tactfully educates parents on heart surgeries and what to expect on their child’s medical journey. His motivation and passion are stoked by his compassion for the families he works with. “Children have so much potential and so much resilience,” he said. “It is a wonderful but weighty responsibility, being part of medical decision-making for the youngest human beings, including those who are pre-born. Watching children who have overcome many obstacles grow and succeed in life is so worthwhile.”

“Watching children who have overcome many obstacles grow and succeed in life is so worthwhile.”



Dr. David Hurst continues his calling to help children with his medical talents while spreading the love of Christ. Recently, he has had the pleasure of seeing some of the fruits of his labor. “I had a young lady who was one of my first patients as a pediatric resident 20 years ago start medical school in the last year,” he said. “Talk about full circle!”

“It is a wonderful but weighty responsibility, being part of medical decision-making for the youngest human beings.”



PCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

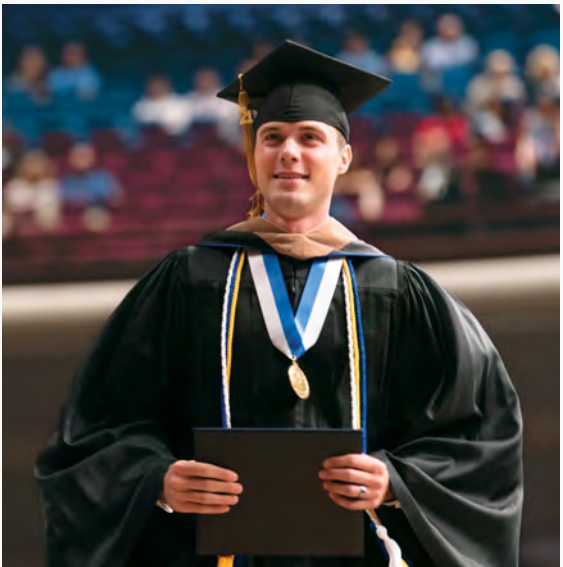
Join the association that gives back to you.

Being a PCC alumnus means being a part of a lifelong community. Through the **Alumni Association**, you can reconnect with college friends and meet other alumni, expanding your professional and personal contacts. Find your next job, hire your next employee, and reach out to current students preparing to change their world for Christ—all in one place, *from a community you can trust.*



Join today

and start a journey with so many amazing possibilities!
go.pcci.edu/GetConnected



Connect
Grow your professional and social network.



Mentor
Influence the next generation.



Access
Strengthen your business or ministry.



Give
Contribute to a greater cause.



Josh and Rebecca Florence

Cultivating Churches

As church planting missionaries, Josh and Rebecca Florence use their ministry to reach Papua New Guinea for Christ.

When God calls someone to serve in ministry, they are often unaware of the various challenges and blessings involved with evangelism and discipleship. For Josh (*Evangelism '07, M.Div. '10*) and Rebecca (*Nursing '08*) Florence, God has used their time on

the mission field to expand their vision of what true ministry encompasses. Together, they have served as church planting missionaries in Papua New Guinea since 2014, spending their first year there with missionaries John and Selina Allen.

PREPARING FOR THE MISSION FIELD

After hearing powerful messages from her home church, a 12-year-old Rebecca surrendered her life to the Lord. She wanted to be a nurse on the mission field but chose to trust God with her desire. When considering colleges, Rebecca gravitated toward PCC because of the quality of its nursing training at an affordable price. "Though it was far from home, my mom encouraged me to check it out. The Lord

then confirmed that was the path I should choose, and I followed," she said. "My time at PCC continued to influence my desire to be involved in full-time ministry and missions."

Josh, who attended an Abeka Christian school, felt familiar with the College's curriculum. Later, God confirmed His leading to attend PCC, and his desire to serve in ministry only grew. He wanted God to use him to do incredible work for His glory. "I heard Evangelist Bill Rice III say if you want to know God's will,



There is no greater joy than to see people come to a saving and growing knowledge of Christ.



'Brush your teeth.' In other words, he was saying to do whatever I know that I am supposed to do that day and that God would use those little things over time to lead me in the right direction," he explained. "We need to surrender our talents and gifts, our families, our futures, and whatever else that seems dearest to us in order that we might be used for His glory."

"I learned much from my time at PCC," Josh continued. "Within one year of graduating with my M.Div., I was thankful for taking the extra time to get it. I was busy traveling over 20 hours a week and preaching many times a week. This heavy workload has never slowed down, and I am thankful I took the time to get the extra degree while I could."

FRUITS OF THE CHURCH PLANT

With Rebecca's support, Josh pastors Berean Baptist Church in Kiunga, Western Province, and leads evangelistic outreaches to the community, such as preaching in the town market, local military post, hospital, and public schools. He's also acting as director of the Western Baptist Bible School, where he oversees the school, teaches classes, manages, and helps build campus buildings. "Church planting missionaries often go to the field expecting to plant their first church in the first few years of their ministry," said Josh. "Well, it takes more time than that to evangelize, train some qualified and called men, and work with them in beginning a church plant."



"It has been a delight to see some of those young men get born-again through their response of faith to the preached Word of God and to then watch the Spirit's sanctifying work in their hearts," said Rebecca. "Two of those first students are faithfully serving the Lord in their village after beginning a fellowship under their house when we went back to the U.S. on furlough in 2019."



FURTHERING THE REACH

While aiding her husband's ministry, Rebecca homeschools their four children, leads ladies' ministries, and teaches children's church. She also uses her nursing training to research various tropical diseases, their symptoms, and treat other issues as they have come up. "I have used the knowledge base and assessment skills I was extensively trained in at PCC in caring for my family's bouts of malaria, boils, pneumonia, and parasites," said Rebecca. "The Lord has also provided other opportunities to minister to others through basic medicine. One day I plan to obtain my Papua New Guinea nursing license so that I can assist my husband in village medical outreach as well as provide basic first-aid training for our Bible school students."

Currently, the Florences have been raising funds to add to their growing local ministry and the Bible school. "We just purchased materials for the

construction of the church building in Ningerum, classrooms under our house, and a large open gymnasium that will be used for sports as well as large gatherings," said Josh. "Praise the Lord for how He has met needs through His people!"

As their ministry continues, both Josh and Rebecca Florence hope to see others use their talents and calling for Christ. "I used to be one of those that held missionaries on a pedestal, thinking that missions was the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great King. Then God called my husband and me to go, and we have learned ever since that God desires the surrendered heart of all of His children in His high calling of reaching the lost no matter where or in what field that may be. God gives us all different gifts and abilities to be used in the body of Christ. Use them for His glory!" said Rebecca. "There is no greater joy than to see people come to a saving and growing knowledge of Christ." ▲




Virtually Attend PCC's FORTY-EIGHTH COMMENCEMENT



After years of hard work, the class of 2023 is ready to graduate!

Watch your graduates receive their diplomas from President Shoemaker as they cross the Crowne Centre stage. Follow the link below to livestream or replay the ceremonies.



Join us for this exciting milestone event at go.pcci.edu/Commencement23

Nursing

Friday, May 12, at 7 p.m.

**Arts and Sciences
Biblical Studies**

Saturday, May 13, at 9:30 a.m.

**Professional Studies
Visual and Performing Arts**

Saturday, May 13, at 2 p.m.



25 Years

of Standing on God's Word

For a quarter of a century, Pensacola Theological Seminary has invested in the cause of Christ, faithfully training men and women as they prepare to serve the Lord.

"Our world needs more pastors and church members who know what they believe and are equipped to serve," said Dr. Dan Rushing, dean of Pensacola Theological Seminary (PTS) since 2009.

PTS began meeting that need in spring 1998, opening its doors with 80 students—including Dr. Rushing, who graduated in 2000 with the first Master of Divinity class. Although PCC's Bible department was already offering a few graduate degrees, Dr. Arlin Horton and the Board of Directors agreed that establishing a seminary would better support future pastors and ministry leaders. "The aim was to master God's Word, knowing what the Bible teaches and then ministering in a compassionate manner," said Dr. Dell Johnson, the first dean of PTS. "We did not want pride of intellect, but purity of heart with a trained mind: to pack students' souls with a passionate heart for God alone."

Guided by solid leadership—Dr. Johnson, then Dr. Joel Porcher, and now Dr. Rushing—PTS has grown throughout its 25 years. More degrees are offered for pastors, missionaries, and laypersons; and online classes have been added, enabling students to earn degrees without leaving home. As PTS has expanded, though, the original values have never wavered.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

2 Timothy 3:16–17

BOLDLY TAKING A STAND

The hallmark of PTS has always been its passion for the authority of the Bible. In contrast to a rising trend toward questioning the Bible’s validity, “PTS students are instructed to believe the Word of God—not criticize it,” said Dr. Johnson.



“Without question, the focus on Scripture itself is our distinctive,” shared Dr. Rushing. “There’s no substitute for that.”

Firmly believing that the Bible is the final answer on all matters, PTS upholds a literal understanding of issues like Creation, a worldwide flood, and eschatology—and a confidence that God has kept His promise to preserve His inspired Word. “Our graduates leave with a deep conviction about the inspiration, preservation, and sufficiency of Scripture,” said Dr. Rushing. “That is the bedrock foundation for their ministry and for their life. If we can help them settle that, they’ll go in the right direction.”

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR MINISTRY

PTS students receive practical training, an academically rigorous education, and a strong base of Bible knowledge. Learning to carefully handle Scripture, they develop a well-balanced philosophy of ministry: clearly formed convictions and a heart for people’s needs. “Each of my teachers has had a clear desire to prepare me to serve God and reach others,” said PTS student Taylor Cartwright (*Professional Writing ’21*), who plans to serve women in her community. “With each conversation, lecture, and project, they have pointed me to Christ and the Bible and helped me seek God better.”

Students are encouraged to begin their ministries while attending seminary, immediately applying their studies in a church setting. “Serving as an intern in a local church gave me the opportunity to further grow in both academic knowledge and practical experience,” said Sam Sinclair (*Pastoral Ministries ’13, History ’15, M.A. Biblical Languages ’15, M.Div. ’17*). Now a senior pastor in Alabama, Sinclair feels well prepared to “rightly divide the word of truth” (*2 Tim. 2:15*). “My ministry has been enormously enhanced by my language training at PTS,” he said. “I regularly use the tools I learned in my Greek and Hebrew classes to mine the Scriptures for truth. Being able to interpret, apply, and explain the Bible has been the most important part of my ministry.”



“Graduates leave with a deep conviction about the inspiration, preservation, and sufficiency of Scripture.”



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

Through its graduates, the legacy of PTS reaches worldwide. “The longer I look at America, the more I am convinced that people desperately need Jesus,” said PTS student Jeremiah Thomason (*Pastoral Ministries ’22*). “I want to do my part as an obedient servant of Jesus Christ to take the gospel to my people.”

Missionary Chris Hurst (*M.Div. ’10*) chose PTS for his Bible education before moving his family to the Philippines, where the church he pastors has opened a Christian school and Bible institute. “We are praying about other church plant locations and sending out individuals from the ministry,” he said. “PTS helped prepare me to share God’s Word while also preparing me to show God’s love.”

Whether graduates plant churches in distant lands or spread the gospel in their own hometown, studying at PTS can strengthen their ability to serve their Savior. “Our burden is for our students to be thoroughly furnished for every good work,” said Dr. Rushing. “If we can have a part in that, then that’s our joy and delight. That’s what we’re doing at Pensacola Theological Seminary. This year, next year, but also 40 years from now.”

“Being able to interpret, apply, and explain the Bible has been the most important part of my ministry.”

YESUNG KIM

1. Why did you choose to study music education: keyboard at PCC?

I originally came to PCC to study elementary education, but God has given me a passion for music, so I changed my major to music ed.: keyboard at the beginning of my junior year.

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

I feel led to teach music at a school. The music education: keyboard program at PCC prepares me to teach not only piano but [also] different instruments such as strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion, and also to be able [to] lead/teach a choir.

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

I can honestly say with confidence that PCC has changed my life. The atmosphere on campus [and being] surrounded by those of like faith has impacted me greatly. Over the last few years, I have grown socially, academically, and—most importantly—spiritually.

4. What about your student experience do you appreciate the most?

I really appreciate the faculty that are willing to help and support me. Often, professors [have been] happy to help me with problems that [aren't] even class related.

5. How does the Christian environment encourage spiritual growth during your time here?

With the daily chapel messages, prayer groups, and Christian Service opportunities, I have grown immensely during my time here. [Being] surrounded by Christian friends who are willing to talk and pray with me is a big encouragement in my college life.

CLASSIFICATION
SENIOR

STUDYING
MUSIC EDUCATION:
KEYBOARD

COLLEGIAN
ALPHA BETA PANTHERS

HOMETOWN
GEUMJEONG-GU, BUSAN,
SOUTH KOREA

CALEIGH PRISK

1. Why did you choose to study graphic design at PCC?

I chose graphic design for a lot of reasons. I love the creativity and getting to bring ideas to life. I chose to come to PCC because I came here in high school for [Youth Outreach Ministry's] Teen Extreme, my sister graduated from here, and even my dad graduated from here.

2. What are your favorite PCC events and why?

I would have to say Greek Week* is my favorite. It's something new and something that the whole campus gets involved with.

3. What kinds of extracurricular activities have you enjoyed most?

I have been involved in [different] areas of Student Activities. I was collegian [representative] freshman and sophomore years for my collegian, and I am currently junior class vice president. I love being involved and getting to make the most out of my time here.

4. How does the Christian environment encourage spiritual growth during your time here?

The Christian environment for me doesn't just mean going to church every weekend and chapel throughout the week; I have met so many people (teachers, staff, and friends) who have encouraged my relationship with the Lord! It's such an easy place to grow and find encouragement.

5. What would you say to encourage other students when they face difficulties in college?

It's hard and can be overwhelming, but it's also so much fun! Get involved in your collegian or make friends in your classes. Whether it's academics or your social life, or whatever it may be, just make the most of your college experience.

*Greek Week is a spring semester spirit week that embraces the four pillars of PCC collegians: Unity, Academics, Leadership, and Service.

CLASSIFICATION
JUNIOR

STUDYING
GRAPHIC DESIGN

COLLEGIAN
ZETA KAPPA GENERALS

HOMETOWN
MCDONOUGH,
GEORGIA

Enjoy Your *Flight*

By Daye Goforth

"Sit back and enjoy your flight." If you've ever flown, you also have heard these reassuring—or sometimes not so reassuring—words. For years, I feared flying and dreaded hearing those words over the loudspeaker. As I buckled up for the flight, my thoughts would go into overdrive over the "what ifs." *"What if the plane just drops out of the sky or a wing falls off?"* I would then spy out the oxygen mask and locate the flotation devices, just in case we landed in the ocean. I would sit buckled up in my thoughts of fear, worry, and anxiousness throughout each flight. Then one day I was "proofing" one of my daughter's research papers on how flight actually works and the importance of the four forces of flight: lift, thrust, drag, and weight—and in a moment, the light came on. **"So, that is how it works!" I said with joyful awareness and was immediately reassured.** Once I understood the science behind flying, the fear and worry vanished, and I realized how amazing flying can be now that I knew the truth.

We have all faced fears on our Christian journey—we have questioned, doubted, and maybe even become overwhelmed with the circumstances in our lives. Many times, we try to work out our problems or run ahead in our minds to the "what ifs" or the "why mes?" of life. **As children of God, we must remind ourselves of the truths found written in the "flight manual" of God's Word.** We must learn to meditate on truth in turbulent times and "lean not unto thine own understanding" (Prov. 3:5), and we must learn to "meditate day and night" (Ps. 1:2) on truth!

We can choose to allow our minds to fear, or we can meditate on this truth: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee" (Isa. 41:10). We can choose to allow anxious thoughts to fill our minds, or we can [reflect] on this truth found in Philippians 4:6–7: "Be careful [or anxious] for nothing. . . . And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." And when life's circumstances overwhelm our hearts, we can dwell on the "what ifs" or "why mes?" of life, or we can rehearse the truths found in Psalm 61:2–4: "When my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower. . . . I will trust in the covert of thy wings."

On this journey of life—in the times of fear, doubt, sorrow, pain, suffering, hurt, even distrust—we must learn to ponder His truth. John 17:17 states confidently, "Thy word is Truth!" So, when the turbulent times come, pull out the "flight manual" and study His Word, meditating on His truths for this journey of life.

Now, sit back and enjoy your flight! ✈



Daye Goforth
(Speech Education '92) serves beside her husband, David (Youth Ministries '93), the senior pastor of Grace Baptist Church (SC). She is a well-loved Ladies Celebration conference speaker, Bible study and Sunday school teacher, counseling ministry leader, wife, mother, and grandmother.



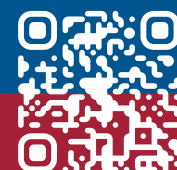
Step away from the busyness of life and refresh your spirit at Ladies Celebration. Learn more at ladiescelebration.com/update

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN
Graduate Studies

Pensacola Theological
Seminary®

Begin your Graduate/Seminary Degree for Free

Get your first online course tuition-free by entering UPDATE23 when you apply.



For more information visit

go.pcci.edu/FirstCourseFree

Scholarships and Donors

A Frontier of Potential

Donors build and encourage
future generations of Christian leaders.

Many alumni look for opportunities to invest in the next generation of Pensacola Christian College and Pensacola Theological Seminary students. And through donor-funded scholarships, alumni can give back, easing tuition for students pursuing a Christian liberal arts education. Although PCC focuses on keeping costs low, scholarships make a big difference in meeting students' individual financial needs. In 2020 to 2021, the PCC Cares Fund and the PCC scholarship program supplemented over 1,000 students' college tuition. Donors can also allocate funds for personalized reasons, such as giving to students in degree programs they are passionate about.

For many donors, knowing
that their contribution will help
students influence the world for
Christ is reason enough to begin
a scholarship.



THE INVALUABLE EFFECT

Financial aid is a gift that lets students focus on what really matters: their education. Before receiving a \$2,000 scholarship, Patrick Pembridge (Sr., TN) had been in a tight financial situation and wouldn't be able to cover his tuition costs. Fortunately, he qualified for "The Called" Ministerial Scholarship, funded by donor Dr. John Weaver. This scholarship allowed Patrick to focus on his studies and bolstered his confidence in God's leading. "It was a major help," Patrick said. "This made me realize God has me in the right place."

By helping students reach their goals, donors can expand their own ministry while also making a difference in the next generation of Christian leaders. "It is not just the money," explained Dr. Karl Stelzer (Ph.D. Biblical Studies '01) (seen on page 27), a PTS scholarship donor since 2021 who, following a burden for students, has invested 26 years of his life into serving as a PCC and PTS faculty member. "Certainly, that is part of it, but the scholarship communicates that someone notices your potential, and they care."

SUPPORTING A WORTHWHILE CAUSE

Many donors designate funds for students studying in certain academic fields. Seeking to help provide a strong biblical background to ministerial students like Patrick Pembridge, former military chaplain Dr. John Weaver discovered PCC through a *Rejoice in the Lord* TV service. Impressed by the preaching, he continued watching and later learned about the scholarship program. "I was prayerfully looking for someplace to help people get into the ministry," he said. "I found out all I needed to know, and I got the answer from the Lord."

Establishing a scholarship can also be a way to carry on a loved one's legacy. Dr. Mike Bere (M.A. Bible Exposition '83, Ph.D. Biblical Studies '87) set up the Melvin and Mary Jane Bere Memorial Scholarship, which supports students studying specific ministry concentrations. Mike became a donor after sorting through his deceased mother's belongings and making a surprising discovery. "We found a treasure trove of thank-you notes from students who had received her financial help anonymously," Mike said.



His mother, Mary Jane Bere, had been giving to elementary education students, and a handwritten addendum in her will requested that Mike continue her donations. "So many students that we have helped often end up helping others as God blesses them financially. We have seen so many go out to serve the Lord across this country and around the world. Only eternity will reveal the impact that gifts like ours and others' will have for the cause of Christ."



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Scholarships can transform students' opportunities, as Christian educators Monte and Bev Krier have seen. The Kriers founded the Monte and Bev Krier VCA (Victory Christian Academy) Scholarship to support students attending PCC that graduated from two Christian high schools the Kriers are affiliated with in the Orlando, Florida, area. Through their scholarship, the couple has witnessed the difference that financing tuition has made in students' futures. "The feedback has been very rewarding for us as we get to learn about what these young people are doing with their lives," Monte said. "We have seen everything from one young man becoming a very respected math and science teacher at a small rural high school to one young lady who went to work in the White House."

For many donors, knowing that their contribution will help students influence the world for Christ is reason enough to begin a scholarship. "It is an investment in the lives of future pastors, missionaries, and

Christian workers," Dr. Stelzer said. As he has witnessed, scholarships "increase potential for influence and impact in the lives of the recipients." ▴



For Your High-Achieving High School Students

Online Dual Enrollment

Your students can look forward to

- Reduced college class load
- Head start on college credits
- Jump start on career potential
- Savings for their future*

*Savings depend on major chosen and number of courses taken.

See admission requirements & find out more today at go.pcci.edu/DualUpdate23



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

THE HANDS THAT WORK

At Pensacola Christian College, staff are using their trade skills to provide for specialized needs across campus.

For some, serving the Lord means standing behind a pulpit or planting churches in foreign lands. For others, it's putting on eye protection and working a table saw. Every day, men and women faithfully support the mission of Pensacola Christian College—empowering leaders to influence the world for Christ—by using trade skills in carpentry, construction, HVAC, and more. Cabinet Shop, Scene Shop, and the maintenance department are essential parts of PCC, and students see the evidence of their work across campus, whether studying at a residence hall desk, enjoying an event in the Dale Horton Auditorium, or appreciating the well-maintained dining, academic, and recreation facilities. “We are supporting everyone in every building of this ministry,” said Dave Wass, Maintenance foreman.

FURNISHING THE COLLEGE

The work from Cabinet Shop supplements the experience of everyone on campus and can be seen in every PCC building. Students lean on the Common Grounds Café counters, walk past campus welcome desks, and use residence hall cabinetry daily. A large project the department more recently completed

was furnishing Rice Tower, the newest men's residence hall. “Rice Tower had over 3,500 separate pieces built for it,” explained Jordan Jekel, Cabinet Shop supervisor. “This included the closets, dressers, shelving, corkboards, headboards for bunkbeds, the lobby desk, and [the] Gearbox [shop's] casework.”

Jekel, who joined PCC staff in 2006, manages the team, oversees projects, and gives instruction on project design—all while also working in the shop himself. “I really enjoy creating architectural millwork and seeing projects come to life,” he said.

Working in an edifying Christian environment, Jekel appreciates being able to support daily campus operations while working alongside likeminded believers. Because he works in a Christian environment, Jekel supports daily campus operations alongside other believers. “The Lord has blessed me to work with a great group of guys, each of which bring a unique dynamic and skillset,” Jekel shared. And every chance he gets to collaborate with student workers allows him to train and get to know them. “We get the opportunity to teach them a trade, but we also get the opportunity to invest in each one of their lives.”



MAINTAINING THE FACILITIES

As Maintenance HVAC foreman, Dave Wass works with a variety of the indoor climate control and outdoor systems on campus. From doing routine checks and repairs to answering late-night emergency maintenance calls in residence halls, he enjoys the variety of the job. Together, Maintenance also takes on collaborative projects with the other trades that make up the department: construction, electrical, paint, plumbing, and zone technicians. “We all work well together and, often, that is what we do—team up and tackle the job,” he explained. “We would not be able to accomplish what we do without their support.”

When Wass first joined Maintenance in 1991, he knew “just enough about the industry to stay out of trouble.” He came to work at PCC to provide his children with Christian education at Pensacola Christian Academy, where tuition is discounted for children of PCC staff and faculty. “The Lord opened

the door at just the right time,” he shared. Over the years, Wass learned how all the systems work, how to troubleshoot each, and when to repair or replace an item. He sees himself as the facilitator of his team, diligent to offer any support. “I have a great group of men that want to honor the Lord with their work.”

The continued efforts of each trade department accomplish what these PCC staff came to do—serve in ministry and support the student experience with the hands that work. “I am so thankful to God for the opportunity He has given me to learn, grow, and serve Him here with other believers,” said Wass. 🙏



Check out our website to see available employment opportunities!

go.pcci.edu/JoinUs

“I can teach not just skills, but work ethic, integrity, flexibility, and so much more.”

SETTING EVERY STAGE

When students attend an on-campus event, whether Fine Arts, Commencement, or chapel, the room’s atmosphere is quickly established by what they find on stage. Except for student-led events, Scene Shop designs and builds each event stage and settings across campus. The Bible Conference picnic, Christmas Lights Celebration, Campus Church’s Sunday Reflections sets, and Youth Outreach Ministry’s Teen Extreme set and escape room are only a few examples of how the department provides for the student experience.

Department manager Ben Davis joined the Scene Shop staff in 2014 after having worked there as an undergraduate and graduate student. Over the years, he’s seen a variety of successful projects come through the department, each experience providing ideas for improvement next time. “Scene Shop has to remain indefinitely flexible,” he said. “We plan for each day, but nearly every week, I will get a request from a department about something they need for an event.” Each member of Scene Shop does their part to make every project distinct. “I am very blessed with the staff we have—each person has a unique perspective and is very creative.”

Because most of his crew are student workers, Davis has opportunities to meaningfully influence their lives. “I’ve always wanted to teach and have an impact on those around me,” Davis shared. “I had always thought it would be in a high school. I still teach, just not in a classroom. And I can teach not just skills, but work ethic, integrity, flexibility, and so much more.”



Calendar of Upcoming Events



Come and Celebrate PCC's 50th Anniversary



Opening Convocations

Start the 50th anniversary year with a focus on God's Word. Hear from Dr. Scott Pauley (fall) and Pastor Matt Teis (spring)—plus see footage from memorable opening meetings.



Legacy Bible Conference

Hear from speakers who have left a legacy on our hearts: Dr. Jim Schettler, Dr. Johnny Pope, and other alumni and friends.



Alumni Homecoming

Experience the ultimate reunion with old friends as the campus celebrates all God has done!



Legacy Chapels

Walk down memory lane at six historic chapel services—including a founders chapel with President Emeritus Dr. Arlin Horton and President Troy Shoemaker.



Gala Concert

Join us for an evening of celebration through musical and dramatic vignettes.



Time Capsule Ceremony

Gather with the PCC family to fill a time capsule encasing unique items and a challenge to the next generation of College leadership.



Stay Connected

by signing up for email updates at 50years.pcci.edu.
You'll receive details about the latest and upcoming events, livestreams, photos, stories, and news.



SUMMER 2023

Teen Extreme Youth Camp

Check teenextremecamp.com for dates!

NEXT Summer Camps

Check nextsummercamps.com for dates!

AUGUST

27–30 Opening Convocation

OCTOBER

20–21 Alumni Homecoming 2023

NOVEMBER

2 Career Fair

2–4 Ladies Celebration

10 Explore PCC

16–17 College Days

28 Christmas Lights Celebration



Opening Convocation

This fall, join us as Dr. Scott Pauley opens our 50th anniversary year! Keep up with our celebrations to commemorate this milestone year as we thank God for His generous provision.



Alumni Homecoming

Reminisce with old friends as we anticipate 50 years. Hear from special speakers and participate in group events, all while looking back on shared moments together.



Ladies Celebration

Come to beautiful Pensacola, Florida, to relax and spiritually recharge. You'll enjoy inspiring speakers, encouraging messages, and refreshing fellowship with likeminded women.



FUN FACT!

Loren Regier ('85) sketched the PCC palm tree logo on a napkin in 1986 while traveling as a PCC representative. The logo was later refined by art faculty member Mr. Stan Shimmin ('82).

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

PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE®



STUDENTS TODAY

Leaders tomorrow

Learn more at pcci.edu

41554501