

# THE RIVER IS RISING REPORT



PEARL RIVER  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

APRIL 2022



THE RIVER IS RISING | APRIL 2022

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THE ETHEL HOLDEN  
**BROWNSTONE**  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS



**Dr. Trevor Hunt, Ph.D.**

*Dept. Chair, Fine Arts & Communications  
Director, Brownstone Center for the Arts*

**The true magic of the Brownstone Center takes place on the stage.**

**—Dr. Trevor Hunt**

I want to let you in on a secret. The Brownstone Center is magical. No, really. It is. Go ahead, google the word magical. It's the second definition. If you have ever been to the Brownstone Center, I bet you'd agree. Sometimes, I stand in the lobby as patrons enter, just to see their faces. I can always tell when someone has never been inside. Their face flashes with delight as they enter the doors and see the elegance of the lobby. As they make their way through the lobby to the doors of Smith Auditorium for the first time, people are often overwhelmed as they experience the vast open space and curving iconic brick wall towering from the floor and disappearing into the ceiling above. I often hear people question themselves, "I'm in Poplarville? This place is incredible." It's as if they have been transported far away to another city. Truth is, you probably asked yourself that very question the first time you experienced the Brownstone Center's magic. But for those really "in the know," walking through the front door is just the beginning. The true magic of the Brownstone Center takes place on the stage.

The students and faculty of the Fine Arts and Communications Department strive to create magical moments on the stage throughout the year by providing a performance space for the community, offering a variety of events during the Brownstone Season, and, most importantly, providing a space for students

to share their talents with the college and community. April sees the culmination of efforts from several groups. Featured this month are performances of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* on the 7th and 8th at 7 p.m. and a matinee on the 9th at 2 p.m. The PRCC Wind Ensemble and Concert Bands will present a concert on the 12th at 7:00pm. On April 21, the Fine Arts and Communications Department will induct this year's Hall of Fame recipients followed by an evening of music by the JazzCats and *The Voices* starting at 7 p.m. To finish off this month, our music majors will present a concert on April 25 at 7 p.m.

Drawing artists to her stage and audiences to her concert hall, the Brownstone Center is a powerful force reshaping the community, uniting everyone for one common purpose: the magical experience of live performance. We welcome you to join us and experience the magic of the Brownstone Center.

If you are interested in learning more about the Brownstone Center, purchasing tickets for an event, or supporting the arts, visit [brownstonecenter.com](http://brownstonecenter.com) or email [brownstone@prcc.edu](mailto:brownstone@prcc.edu). And don't forget to follow us on social media!





THE ETHEL HOLDEN  
**BROWNSTONE**  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

April 7 & 8 • 7PM  
April 9 • 2PM

Balcony \$17  
Orchestra \$22

For tickets, scan or follow the link:  
[brownstonecenter.com](http://brownstonecenter.com)



Disney **THE LITTLE MERMAID**

# MERMAID CONTEST WINNER!

Congratulations to Ms. Luna McElroy, the winner of the mermaid contest for tickets to Disney's The Little Mermaid Meet-and-Greet and the 2 p.m. show on Saturday, April 9.

This darling photo was taken by [Tamara Rogers Photography](#).





PEARL RIVER  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# Wildcat Experience

*You're Invited*

TO A **FREE** EVENT OPEN TO ALL  
JUNIORS & SENIORS INTERESTED IN  
BECOMING A WILDCAT IN  
SUMMER OR FALL 2022

THE EVENT WILL INCLUDE FREEBIES,  
FUN, GAMES, MUSIC & ON-CAMPUS  
INFORMATION BOOTHS

**FEEL FREE TO BRING A FRIEND!**

**April 12, 2022 • 1–3 p.m.**



PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
POPLARVILLE CAMPUS  
101 HWY 11 NORTH, POPLARVILLE, MS 39470

**REGISTER NOW AT PRCC.EDU**



# Wildcat Experience

Pearl River Community College will be welcoming all prospective students to the annual Wildcat Experience on the Poplarville campus Tuesday, April 12.

High school juniors and seniors as well as any non-traditional student interested in PRCC are invited to get first-hand experience of life at The River. The free event will be from 1 – 3 p.m. on The Green of the Centennial Courtyard on the Poplarville Campus.

Faculty, staff and current students will be available to cover everything from the enrollment process to what your college experience could look like as a PRCC Wildcat.

“The Wildcat Experience is an awesome day for prospective students to meet faculty, staff, administration and current students

here at The River and learn more about what it means to be a part of the Wildcat Family,” said Coordinator of Recruitment & Marketing Kari Eve Valence. “The Office of Recruitment is excited to host this annual event where the ‘Wildcat Way’ will be on full display.”

Registration is easy.

Visit: [PRCC.edu/WildcatExperience](https://prcc.edu/WildcatExperience).

#### ALL ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE

Attendees can meet with staff members from key departments involved with the enrollment and registration process including Admissions, Financial Aid, Housing, and Student Services/ROAR.

Students can learn more about academic pathways and courses offered on campus from faculty members. Academic disci-

plines that will be available include Fine Arts and Communications, Honors Institute, Humanities and STEM.

Career Technical Education will be present, including representatives from our popular Allied Health and Nursing options.

Dual enrollment will be there to help any junior or senior who wants an early start on college credit at a reduced fee.

Finally, key components of student life are covered with representatives from Athletics and Student Activities.

#### MORE FUN

Along with the informational tables around The Green, refreshments will be served and attendees can see the National Champion PRCC Cheerleaders, String of Pearls dance team and PRCC Spirit of the River Marching Band perform.

Students who register for the event will receive FREE tickets to the home baseball game against Hinds that afternoon as well as the PRCC Wind Ensemble Concert Band performance that evening will be given out at the event.

For more information, contact the Office of Recruitment by calling 601-403-1197, emailing [recruitment@prcc.edu](mailto:recruitment@prcc.edu), or visiting the webpage [prcc.edu/recruitment](https://prcc.edu/recruitment). **RRR**

## PRCC SEES 17 SEMESTERS OF OUTPERFORMING STATE ENROLLMENT AVERAGE

Pearl River Community College is once again trending for the Spring 2022 semester. The 10th Day Report has arrived, and PRCC has maintained its place as fourth largest community college in Mississippi. The college has also seen 17 consecutive semesters of outperforming the state headcount average. When comparing Spring 2022 to Spring 2021, PRCC saw an increase of .9 percent to 4,580 students.

“We are honored that a record number of students continue to choose Pearl River Community College,” said Dr. Adam Breerwood, PRCC President. “Our goal has always been to provide affordable and accessible educational opportunities. Our growth over the last 17 semesters is a result of a dedicated faculty who continue to work diligently to change the lives of our students daily.

“We remain dedicated to removing the obstacles that impede student success and providing clear pathways for our students to succeed in whatever career field they choose.

While we are pleased with our enrollment growth, I believe our best days are still ahead of us.”

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PRCC saw a slight 0.1 percent decrease in spring-to-spring credit hours at 59,340.

### **ACADEMICS**

Providing a variety of courses for students with high caliber instructors is at the core of PRCC's approach to academics. Whether you're a student seeking an associate degree before matriculating into a four-year school or a student in Career Technical Education looking to directly enter the workforce, PRCC is constantly aiming to provide the best possible classroom experience.

A big part of growing academics is the continued expansion of eLearning. Along with courses held exclusively online, instructors of traditional classes are embracing the digital. This includes building out courses in Canvas and using cameras in the classroom to record each class and allow students to remote into class when needed. They can receive training and assistance with Instructional Technology needs from eLearning.

"Enrollment in eLearning continues to be robust," said Senior Vice President for Instruction/Provost Martha Smith. "The college is committed to providing services for students choosing to take online classes. To this end, additional personnel have been hired to help with online advisement and test proctoring.

"While there are courses that require hands-on learning, over time, instructors identified information that could be delivered via an online format thus allowing for smaller groups and social distancing during labs."

### **MAKING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE**

One of the tenets of Dr. Breerwood's presidency is to ensure education at Pearl River Community College is accessible and affordable. As a result, PRCC has maintained the same tuition rate for the last five years while continuing to add services and opportunities for students.

Making college affordable is done in part with scholarships for students in Academic, Allied Health, and Career Technical Education pathways to assist them with their educational goals.

For the 2021-22 school year, PRCC has provided more than \$4.5 million in institutional scholarships. This includes academic and service scholarships.

Academic scholarships are based on either the student's ACT score or successful completion of a CTE program at the high

school level with at least a 3.0 GPA. The last four years has seen over 50% growth in the number of CTE scholarships awarded.

Students are also eligible for a variety of service scholarships for students involved in athletic and service endeavors while in college. Service scholarships can be stacked with academic or CTE scholarships. Service endeavors include activities such as The Spirit of the River Band, PRCC Cheer, PRCC Singers, River Navigators, and Resident Assistant.

Additionally, the PRCC Development Foundation has hundreds of scholarships students can qualify for through a simple application. These scholarships total over a million dollars each year and are made possible through the generosity of donors.

"While scholarships play a vital role in recruitment, the funding provides support throughout the student's time at PRCC and helps to ensure that retention and graduation are obtained," said Executive Director of Development Foundation/Alumni Association Delana Harris. "The combination of scholarships, student services and diverse offerings including online, night and weekend courses continues to allow PRCC to serve our communities with training and educational opportunities.

"This helps to ensure that our local economies grow and that our workforce needs are met."

### **EXCELLENT EXPERIENCES**

Along with good experiences in the classroom, the college has also engaged in forward thinking that improves the overall experience someone has from the moment they express interest in PRCC.

Both the Business Office and Financial Aid Office have created processes that put student needs first and allow them to complete everything digitally. This includes the ability to view bills, set up payment plan options, and understand when their financial aid awards are available.

"The college has made great strides across the institution to improve processes, increase technology for digital interactions and improve communications to students to enhance better service," said Vice President for Enrollment Management & Business Services Candace Harper. "Moving to having more things online is just one example of the commitment all of our departments are making to put the student experience first."



Along with changes in the traditional administrative offices, PRCC recently opened The Wildcat Hub, a one stop shop for assistance. Their customer service agents are accessible through the chat feature of the PRCC website, from the mail phone number for the college, and from in person interactions in their newly created space inside Crosby Hall.

Since January, they have answered more than 1400 chats and during February handled over 700 phone calls. Their operational hours are expanding to be 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. for Monday through Thursday and until 4 p.m. on Fridays. Any email inquiries and chat tickets are being answered within 24 hours.

### **OUTREACH**

PRCC Recruiters are back out in the community more often to make connections with students that may find The River a good fit for their career goals. In February, three days were spent with over 800 students visiting either Allied Health or Career Technical Education programs on the Forrest County and Poplarville campuses.

They are also spending more time on school visits, bringing information about the college to local high schools. This included a big "Pathway to PRCC" day held last November at Hancock High School where students learned about the County Tuition Assistance Program available for all Hancock County residents.

"In addition to on campus events, Recruiters have been able to once again personally guide students through the enrollment process on their 'home turf' with the re-opening of local schools," said Coordinator of Recruitment and Marketing Kari Eve Valence. "We've engaged through Senior Information Sessions, Application Days, CTE & Allied Health Class Presentations, College Fairs, and attending several athletic events and awards days all in the hopes of helping prospective Wildcats seamlessly join the Wildcat Family." **RRR**

## TWO PRCC STUDENTS SELECTED AS SEMIFINALISTS FOR JACK KENT COOKE SCHOLARSHIP



The list of semifinalists for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship has been released and two students at Pearl River Community College have made the cut. Hanna Lambert and Shui Lin, both students at the Forrest County Campus, are this year's semifinalists from PRCC.

This highly competitive scholarship is awarded to the nation's top community college students seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees at four-year colleges or universities. The award covers a significant portion of their educational expenses, including tuition, living expenses, books and required fees.

Awardees can receive up to \$55,000 per year for two to three years at a four-year accredited undergraduate school for any area of study. They do need to meet a financial need requirement to be considered for the scholarship.

This year, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation received more than 1,200 applications for the scholarship and named 440 as semifinalists.

"I am honored to have worked with our Jack Kent Cooke semifinalists, Hanna Lambert and Shui Lin," said On-Line English Instructor and Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Dr. Terri Ruckel. "Both of these students are deserving of this recognition and of being one

step closer to receiving the largest transfer scholarship in the nation.

"In my estimation, these students are dream students. They are hard-working, passionate about serving the college and the community, and, like so many students at PRCC, they find a pathway to success. Pearl River Community College consistently produces the highest caliber of students in the nation."

### HANNA LAMBERT

Lambert is from Richton where she graduated from Richton High School. During that time, she was a member of the Beta Club and Science Club while also being named to the honor roll each year.

As a PRCC student, she has been an active member of the Dr. William Lewis Honors Institute, the Beta Tau Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, and the Science Club. This year, she has served as the President of the Student Government Association.

"I love everything about PRCC," said Lambert. "The faculty and staff are absolutely amazing. They always make sure that the students have everything they need, and they actually care about the well-being of the students. I have never witnessed this amount of love and support towards students that our faculty and staff offer.

"I feel like I am a part of a family when I walk through any door at PRCC. I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for the

wonderful instructors and advisors that I have had the privilege of meeting over the past two years."

She is on a STEM pathway with plans to attend Mississippi State University in the fall. Her goal is to become a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

"It means the world to me to be considered a JKC semifinalist," said Lambert. "Since I started at PRCC, I have dreamed of receiving this award and recognition.

"I have worked hard every semester to make sure I am taking the necessary steps toward achieving this wonderful goal. I have applied myself in more ways than I ever thought I could, and I hope to be named a finalist."

### SHUI LIN

Lin is an immigrant from China who moved to Hattiesburg four years ago where his sister lives. He worked for a few years to save up money to attend college. Pearl River Community College has been his first school experience in the United States.

At PRCC, Lin has been preparing for a degree in mathematics and computer science. His big dream is to become a medical doctor, something rekindled after seeing the deaths and tolls experienced by the medical professionals during the last two year. Alternatively, he may pursue the goal

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of becoming a college professor. Working in the Student Success Center, he found a passion for helping students struggling in STEM subjects.

Along with his studies and work, Lin is extremely active on campus. He is an active member of the Dr. William Lewis Honors Institute, the Beta Tau Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the Mu Alpha Theta Math Society, the Sigma Kappa Delta English Society, the Science Club, and is a regional officer for the Mississippi/Louisiana Region of Phi Theta Kappa. He has also maintained a 4.0 G.P.A. throughout his time at PRCC.

“What excites me most about being a PRCC student is that there are some of the best instructors and advisors in the world,” said Lin. “I am so lucky because every instructor

I have met at PRCC has been so patient in helping me step by step towards academic success. Not only did they answer any questions I had during work hours, but they also even sacrificed their time outside of work for my academic success.

“They are like my family in school. Therefore, advisors and instructors are one of the most successful parts of PRCC and will continue to shine and help more students succeed.”

Lin has applied to several schools including Columbia University, Duke University, Mississippi State University, and Yale University, but has not made a final decision of where he will attend. Given that his income puts him below the poverty line, he will have to defer his education without the help of scholarships like this one.

“When I first heard about this scholarship, I thought it was a whole other planet thing for me,” said Lin. “As a non-native English speaker in an American school for the first time in my late 20s, I even was surprised to be eligible for this scholarship.

“Fortunately, I met so many people who helped me in my college. For example, my advisor is always encouraging and helping me to become a better person. Therefore, I am so grateful for the surprise to this loving society. If I don't win this scholarship, it also would be a great honor in my life.”

Last year, Pearl River Community College had three Jack Kent Cooke scholarships awarded to students. This was a record number of awardees for the school. **RRR**

## PRCC STUDENT ERIN CLIFFORD NAMED GOLD SCHOLAR ON COCA-COLA 2022 ACADEMIC TEAM

**P**hi Theta Kappa Honor Society has made their selections for the Coca-Cola 2022 Academic Team and Pearl River Community College sophomore Erin Clifford has been named a Gold Scholar.

The award recognizes outstanding academic achievement and leadership accomplishments. The selection was based on the score she earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition which has more than 2,000 applications.

As a Gold Scholar, Clifford will receive a gold medallion and a check for \$1,500.

“On behalf of the entire advisor team, we are so proud of Erin's accomplishment,” said Lisa Wall, Director of First-Year Experience at PRCC and a PTK Advisor. “Erin worked on her scholarship applications for months, and it is rewarding to see her contributions to PRCC and our community recognized at the national level. Erin is most deserving of this award.”

From Ocean Springs, Clifford is studying Political Science with a Pre-Law emphasis on the Poplarville Campus. Her ultimate career goal is to serve as a Child-Advocacy attorney.

She serves as president for the Iota Mu Chapter and as the Career Technical Education representative for the MS/LA Region



of PTK. She also played on the PRCC soccer team and currently has a 3.93 G.P.A.

“The scholarship application season is pretty grueling, but the support I received from my advisers, soccer team and coaches, and family pushed me to see it through,” said Clifford. “I'm so honored to have been selected, and I hope I continue to embody the ideals that are laid out for those who receive this scholarship.”

After graduating from PRCC in May, Clifford plans to attend Mississippi State University with a full scholarship. She plans

to be involved on campus like she has been at PRCC with the goal of entering law school in the fall of 2024.

### ABOUT THE ACADEMIC TEAM

The Coca-Cola Academic Team recognizes high achieving college students who demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service that extends their education beyond the classroom to benefit society.

A total of 150 students are named each year, equally split between Gold, Silver, and Bronze Scholars. A state may have multiple Gold, Silver, or Bronze Scholars.

To be eligible for this program, students must apply for the All-USA Academic Team and be selected as a nominee by their college.

The Coca-Cola Academic Team is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. **RRR**

# FARRIS, LOPER RECEIVE \$1,500 KOHLER SCHOLARSHIPS



Pearl River Community College students Sungjin Farris and Joshua Loper have been awarded \$1,500 Kohler Manufacturing ready-to-work scholarships this semester.

Farris, 20, and Loper, 25, are sophomores majoring in Electronics/Industrial Technology at the Forrest County Campus. Farris attended Oak Grove High School and Loper attended Purvis High School.

Farris said he wants to be an electronics technician by trade. He is a member of the

National Technical Honors Society.

“I was surprised, honored and grateful for receiving this scholarship,” he said.

“I have enjoyed my time at Pearl River and the opportunity to make many friends. I also enjoy my teachers who always help me and make sure I understand the lessons.”

Industrial Technology instructor Sam McNease said Farris is deserving of this scholarship.

“Sungjin can quickly figure out any puzzle

you hand him,” said McNease. “He really enjoys working with technology and has excellent reviews from his internship supervisor. It’s every employer’s dream to have employees like him.”

Loper, who is also a member of the National Technical Honors Society, wants to be an industrial electrician.

“I am very honored and appreciative to receive this scholarship,” Loper said. “I’ve had some excellent teachers at Pearl River who have taught me a lot and answered my questions along the way. I’ve also made several friends.”

Said McNease about Loper, “Josh has been a star student from day one. His hard work stems from his curiosity in electronics and is reflected in his perfect grades throughout the program.”

Dr. James David Collum, Dean for Career and Technical Education at the Forrest County Campus, said PRCC is appreciative of Kohler’s donation.

“We greatly value our partnership with Kohler,” he said. “These scholarships play a direct role in the success of our Industrial Electronics program by allowing our students to persist and focus on the skills that will help them find employment.”

For more information about the Industrial Electronics Technology program at PRCC, contact McNease at 601-554-5477 or email [smcnease@prcc.edu](mailto:smcnease@prcc.edu). **RRR**

## PRCC, WILLIAM CAREY ALIGN FOR 'GAME CHANGING' PARTNERSHIP

During a ceremony inside WCU’s Tatum Court, PRCC President Dr. Adam Breerwood and William Carey Executive Vice President Dr. Ben Burnett signed a Memorandum of Understanding specifically targeted at their allied health students and programs. Dr. Janet Williams, WCU’s Associate Vice President for College of Health Sciences, and PRCC’s Dr. Jana Causey, Vice President of PRCC’s Forrest County Campus, Allied Health and Nursing Programs, were also involved in the partnership.

The agreement will help create another pathway for PRCC graduates who want to continue their education at WCU.

“We are ecstatic to engage in this partnership. Dr. Burnett has been a true visionary leader here at William Carey and is a dear friend,” Dr. Breerwood said. “He has reached out on numerous occasions to us to try and create pathways where we can remove obstacles that would normally impede education.

“For our students, for the opportunity now locally to continue their education and have

a clear pathway is something we’ve sought after for a long time. We are thrilled to engage in this agreement.”

At the core of the latest MOU are the Pine Belt and South Mississippi communities. “Dr. Causey and I have talked about this multiple times,” Dr. Breerwood said. “Most of our students begin their high school career, their college career and ultimately reside within a 45-mile radius of our campuses. I think it’s brilliant to want to build this **continued on page 09**



*Pearl River Community College and William Carey University joined forces once again Wednesday to better assist aspiring Health Sciences healthcare students in the Pine Belt and South Mississippi.*

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local economy. Through education we know we can do it.”

Another major component of the agreement is the intention to keep costs down for students. As part of the MOU, William Carey agrees to provide healthcare programs specific courses for dual enrollment of PRCC students who are currently enrolled in pre-professional and healthcare programs — at PRCC’s tuition rate.

“One of the biggest roadblocks in higher education is the cost and if you can take away one year of the cost, that’s huge,” Dr. Burnett said. “This will help students know they need to start planning while they’re at Pearl River so they can take the right courses and graduate — that’s important, to graduate — in two years, spend one year with us and then be eligible to pursue a variety of healthcare programs here at William Carey.

“The quicker we can get students out, the less debt we have. A huge part of the equation in Mississippi economics is the debt they graduate with.”

One obvious hope with the latest MOU between PRCC and WCU is that it will directly help ease the ongoing healthcare shortage facing the country, and specifically Mississippi.

“We do not have enough health care professionals in our hospitals and it boils down to not having that skilled workforce that’s ready to go to work,” Dr. Causey said. “A partnership such as this one will help us meet the needs of our healthcare community.”

The ceremony was just the beginning, Dr. Williams said.

“We have looked for new and innovative ways to get that done over the years. We have some exciting things we’re doing as a university but this is game changing,” she said. “We’re not coming together, taking a pretty picture and moving on. This agreement means we’re going to send a representative to Pearl River once a week to advise these students, to be there for them and encourage them to come through those programs.”

**Other key elements of the MOU include:**

- WCU will assist PRCC with initiating pre-professional programs for physical therapy, pharmacy, health information management, health administration and education, and RN-BSN offerings
- Students who are dually enrolled at PRCC and WCU will receive academic support from William Carey
- WCU and PRCC will work together to

promote open communications, evaluation of current programs and future planning

**SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP**

The announcement marks the fourth time in four years the two colleges have partnered together in the best interest of students in the Pine Belt and South Mississippi. In 2018 the two schools signed an Elementary Education Partnership to address the teacher shortage facing Mississippi. In 2020 the Wildcats and Crusaders came together once again to sign two more memorandums. The first provided classes for third- and fourth-year students at PRCC’s Hancock County Campus. The second agreement in 2020 made it easier for PRCC’s academic and technical students to transfer to WCU with their credits largely intact and pursue a Bachelor’s degree. **RRR**

# MEN'S & WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

As if claiming the MACCC regular-season title wasn't enough for the Pearl River men's basketball team, coach Chris Oney and his Wildcats continued their incredible play into the Region 23 Tournament. In the opening round of the tournament, the Wildcats dominated Delgado, 93-57. Round two saw Pearl River blow past Northwest 63-44 to advance to the semifinals. In the semifinal matchup with LSU Eunice, Pearl River defeated the Bengals 53-42 to advance to the title game

against Meridian. A second half surge against the Eagles helped Pearl River win the game 69-57 to claim a third Region 23 title game in the last four years and advance to "The Big Dance" in Hutchinson, Kan.

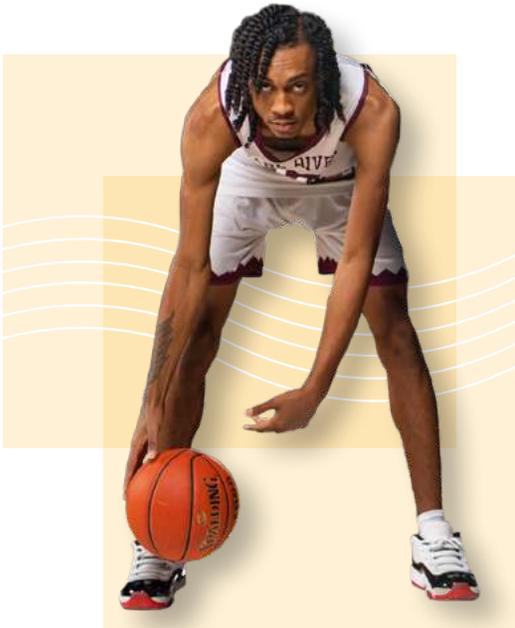
The Wildcats were given the 17-seed in the NJCAA tournament, setting up a matchup with 16-seed Moberly Area in the first round. The game against the Greyhounds was back-and-forth throughout. With 1.8 seconds left on the clock, PRCC drained a 3-pointer to take the lead but a MACC guard nailed a buzzer-beater from beyond half court to tie the game and send it to overtime. The Wildcats eventually fell, 95-89.

The Pearl River women's basketball continued its historic season by helping to re-write the record books once again. The Wildcats dominated Northeast, Itawamba, and Southwest en route to a Region 23 title game appearance for the first time since the 2003 season.

After the season concluded, the awards began rolling in for both teams. Jaronn Wilkens (Biloxi) closed out a storybook Pearl River career by earning First Team All-MACCC and All-Region 23 selections. Cameron Brown (Hattiesburg) was named Second Team All-MACCC and All-Region

23. Earl Smith, Jr. (Jackson; Lanier) concluded his Wildcat career by being named All-Region 23.

Marcavia Shavers (Biloxi) and Otashae Burrage (Carthage; Leake County) were honored for their incredible 2021-22 campaigns as Shavers earned a First Team All-MACCC selection and Burrage was named Second Team All-MACCC. Shavers also was honored by the Region, pulling in an All-Region 23 award. **RRR**



# BASEBALL, SOFTBALL & GOLF ROUNDUP

There has been plenty of magic on the diamond this season for the Pearl River baseball and softball teams.

Heading into their doubleheader against Gulf Coast on March 29, baseball had a 19-5 overall record and a 7-1 mark in MACCC play. The conference record placed them in a tie for first place.

After a doubleheader sweep of No. 5 East Central, the Wildcats took over the No. 1 ranking in the NJCAA rankings for the first time since 2005. They now are ranked No. 1 in the NJCAA, Juco Baseball Blog and Prep Baseball Report rankings.

Tate Parker (Gulfport; West Harrison) has been the highlight of the season for the Wildcats. The reigning MACCC Player of the Year and First Team All-American is hitting .495 with 10 homers and 36 RBIs. The softball program currently has a record of 16-9 and a 6-2 conference record. The

Wildcats have scratched into the top-10 in the NJCAA, coming in at No. 8.

Louisiana-Lafayette transfer Brinson Anne Rogers (Statesboro, Ga.) has continued to dominate for the No. 8 softball Wildcats in the circle throughout conference play. Heading into a doubleheader against Gulf Coast, Rogers had thrown two no-hitters against MACCC foes. She currently has gone 17 innings without allowing a hit.

Pearl River golf is fresh off one of its best golf tournaments of the year in which the Wildcats finished with their lowest score of the season, 643. PRCC has now turned its attention to the MACCC Tournament April 8-9 at Wolf Hollow Golf Club in Wesson. **RRR**



# PEARL RIVER RODEO TEAM IMPRESSES AT HOME RODEO

The Pearl River rodeo team did its best to impress a capacity crowd April 24-26 in the annual Pearl River rodeo hosted at the Pearl River County Fairgrounds Arena. The women's team grabbed fourth place and the men's team took home sixth.

The Wildcats competed against Missouri Valley College, East Mississippi CC, Three Rivers College, UT-Martin, Southern Arkansas, Arkansas-Monticello and West Alabama, Colorado Mesa University, Northwest and Missouri Southern State.

"This weekend was really exciting. We had a good crowd each night," coach Frank Graves said. "The community really came out and helped us, so it was exciting. It's great to see

it grow the way it is growing in the couple of years that we have done it. The livestream that we had is really going to help us going forward. The community and sponsors that stepped up and helped us out were great. The people who came to the rodeo helped build the excitement."

## RESULTS

In calf roping, Roper Stoots (Louisville) took home third place. Kason Davis (Poplarville) had a great first round as he grabbed second place with a time of 9.5; however, he wasn't able to register a time in the second round.

Like Davis, Molli Rae Kinchen (Tickfaw, La.; Ponchatoula) registered a good time in her first-round attempt but registered no time in the second.

One of the best performances of the weekend came from Sarah Booty (Osyka; Amite County). The sophomore grabbed

first place in goat tying with times of 7.2 and 7.1.

"Sarah is second in the region in goat tying," Graves said. "She's done well all year and she's really good at goat tying. She's been really working at it to stay in the top three so that she can make it to nationals."

Davis again competed in team roping and took home fourth place with times of 6.2 and 7.1. Koby Sanchez (Ethel, La.) and Bryce Graves (Poplarville) tied for fifth place in the event with times of 5.8 and 10.8. Jeb Stewart (Lucedale) and Blake Lyons (Ethel, La) were sitting in first place after their first run but did not register a time in the second round. **RRR**





Spring has Sprung! We are excited to have the Wildcat Kids Club growing. Be sure to sign up for the kids club by visiting:

[www.prccathletics.com/Wildcat\\_Kids\\_Club/Wildcat\\_Kids\\_Club\\_Application](http://www.prccathletics.com/Wildcat_Kids_Club/Wildcat_Kids_Club_Application)

To stay up-to-date with events on campus and what is happening within the community of Poplarville and Petal, visit:

[www.prccathletics.com/Wildcat\\_Kids\\_Club/index](http://www.prccathletics.com/Wildcat_Kids_Club/index)



## THE WILDCAT WAY SHOW WITH MCKINSY HARRIS

This month's Wildcat Way Show, with host McKinsy Harris, will be featuring Coach Christopher Oney on April 12.

The show will also host Mr. Rshan Foxworth on April 26. Mr. Foxworth is the Commercial Construction Technology instructor at our Forrest County Campus. His enthusiasm about his program is contagious,

and we cannot wait to share more information about the great things he is doing for PRCC and the future of Commercial Construction workers.

Follow on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and download the podcast on your preferred app. **RRR**



Pearl River Community College  
**Alumni Association &  
Development Foundation**

# DID YOU GRADUATE FROM PRCC?

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VISIT: [PRCC.EDU/ALUMNI/JOINTODAY](http://PRCC.EDU/ALUMNI/JOINTODAY)

# Happy to Help!

Calling all Wildcats! Have you noticed someone in your department or around campus who goes above and beyond? Help us recognize Wildcats who are always Happy to Help by emailing [media@prcc.edu](mailto:media@prcc.edu)! Please include the Wildcat's name and a brief description on why they should be recognized!

## WEBSITE REQUESTS

**ATTENTION:** Department chairs and club moderators, if you have not already done so, please look at your existing page at [PRCC.edu](http://PRCC.edu). If you see anything that needs to be updated or corrected, please communicate your requests to Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications Richard Gleber ([rgleber@prcc.edu](mailto:rgleber@prcc.edu); 601-403-1352).

## MEDIA REQUESTS

The Pearl River Community College Marketing & Communications Department request form has moved! We are always Happy to Help! To help us help you most efficiently, please submit a request by visiting our form link:

[www.prcc.edu/faculty/marketing-request](http://www.prcc.edu/faculty/marketing-request)

You may also select the "Marketing Request Form" button inside the new RiverGuide. You can also directly email inquiries to [media@prcc.edu](mailto:media@prcc.edu).

## PRCC HOSTS GULF SOUTH REGIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



Pearl River Community College saw middle and high school students along with their teachers and parents enjoy a day of science fun at the annual regional Science Olympiad on March 5. PRCC has been hosting the Gulf South Regional Science Olympiad since 2015 with the 2021 competition done virtually.

Eight schools brought a total of 10 teams for the event. Middle school teams came from Pearl River County Middle School in Carriere, Oak Grove Middle School in Hattiesburg and St. Patrick Catholic High School in Biloxi. High school teams came from Northwest Rankin High School in Flowood, Parklane Academy in McComb, Pearl River Central High School in Carriere, Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg and St. Patrick Catholic High School in Biloxi.

Each team could consist of up to 15 participants who compete in a variety of events in multiple science disciplines: Life, personal, and social sciences; Earth and space science; Physical Science and Chemistry; Technology and Engineering; and Inquire and Nature of Science. The focus of the events changes each year so that each annual competition is unique.

### SCIENCE OLYMPIAD EVENTS

Some events require core knowledge that is judged through written tests, while others require participants to perform tasks on-site. This year's non-spectator events for both levels included Anatomy, Disease Detectives, Green Generations, Ornithology, and Write It/Do It. Middle school students could also

compete in Crime Busters, Food Science, and Solar System. High school students had the additional options of Astronomy, Chem Lab, and Forensics.

Spectator events incorporated the need for students to build a device ahead of time and bring it on-site for testing. These included Bridge Building, Trajectory (high school), Storm the Castle (middle school), Mouse-trap Vehicles (middle school), Gravity Vehicle (high school), The Wright Stuff (high school), Electric Wright Stuff (middle school), and Ping Pong Parachute

### AWARD WINNERS

After a long day of events, attendees gathered for the awards ceremony where the top three students or partner teams for each event were announced. This was followed by the announcement of the overall winners.

For B Division (middle school), third place went to team B-8 from Oak Grove Middle School, second place went to team B-6 from Pearl River County Middle School, and first place went to team B-4 from St. Patrick.

For C Division (high school), third place went to team C-5 from Oak Grove High School, second place went to team C-4 from Parkland Academy, and first place went to team C-3 from Northwest Rankin.

The top teams from the regional events qualify to compete at the State Tournament at the University of Southern Mississippi in April. The winners at State are invited to attend the National Science Olympiad. **RRR**

# Spotlights!



**DR. STAN DAVIS**  
INSTRUCTOR OF HUMANITIES  
POPLARVILLE CAMPUS

Dr. Stan, as he is known to his students, completed his BBA at Mississippi State University, his Master of Divinity in Psychology and Family Counseling at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and his Doctor of Ministry at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Davis has taught in the humanities department for 18 years while also serving as BSU Director. His favorite charge to students is “Seek Wisdom!” because you tell people more by what you do than by what you say.”



**MICHELLE CAMPBELL**  
SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
TO THE VICE PRESIDENT  
FORREST COUNTY CAMPUS

Michelle graduated with an Associate of Arts degree from Pearl River Community College and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of West Alabama.

She lives in Purvis with her husband, David, and three wonderful children, Carter, Katie, and Mallorie.

When away from work, she enjoys taking beach trips, shopping, watching sports, and spending time with my family.

“Since I first began working at Pearl River Community College almost six years ago, everyone has been so welcoming and caring. I appreciate the opportunities to grow as a student and now as an employee at this institution.”



**CHARLIE BYRD**  
SUPER SOPHOMORE  
MUSIC EDUCATION MAJOR  
POPLARVILLE CAMPUS

Charlie is from Lumberton and was a homeschooled student prior to attending PRCC.

He is passionate about music and is an active participant in different opportunities in the Fine Arts and Communications Department. These include Spirit of the River, PRCC Singers and JazzCats. He is part of the Baptist Student Union lead team and their praise band. He is also an active member of Phi Theta Kappa.

After graduation this May, he plans to continue his studies at either the University of Southern Mississippi or William Carey University.

“I chose PRCC because of the great education, wonderful teachers, and lots of opportunities.”



### **Poplarville Campus**

101 Highway 11 North  
Poplarville, Miss. 39470

### **Forrest County Campus**

5448 Highway 49 South  
Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401

### **Hancock Campus**

454 Highway 90, Suite D  
Waveland, Miss. 39576

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