

THE RIVER RISING REPORT



Dr. Jeffrey Murdock
2021 Grammy Music Educator of the Year



PEARL RIVER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 2022



THE RIVER IS RISING | FEBRUARY 2022

CONTENTS

01

FACULTY & STAFF ASSOCIATION

A letter from Dr. Jonathan Morris about FSA news and upcoming events

02

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Discover special events in February honoring Black History and culture

03

CTE & THE WILDCAT WAY SHOW

Learn about CTE program offerings & get updated on the Wildcat Way Show

04 - 06

ATHLETICS

Basketball & Golf roundups plus a look ahead at the Baseball & Softball season

07

BROWNSTONE

A recap of the Committed concert & upcoming events in 2022

08

SOCIAL MEDIA AT PRCC

Learn about the various social media channels at PRCC and follow us

09 - 10

NEWS ROUNDUP

Stay up-to-date on the latest news & announcements from PRCC

11

SPOTLIGHTS

Faculty, staff and student spotlights from our campuses

12

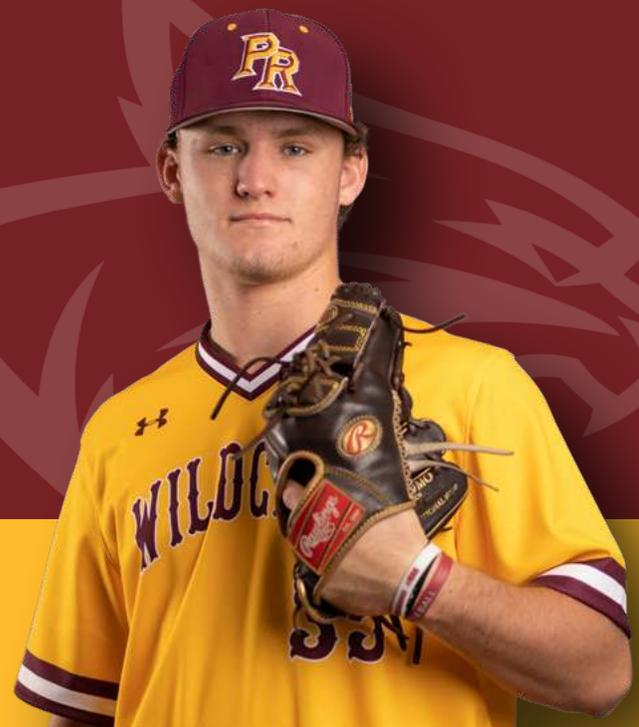
NEW HIRES

Give a warm Wildcat welcome to PRCC's new hires

13

STUDENT LIFE

Snapshots of life at The River



News from the **Faculty & Staff Association**



Dr. Jonathan Morris, President
Faculty and Staff Association

The members of the Faculty and Staff Association are excited about the Spring 2022 semester and the start of a new year. You might be wondering why we are so excited. When you are a Wildcat, every day is a good day. However, our association also has a couple of things to celebrate. Each year, The Mississippi Faculty Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MFACJC) awards scholarships to faculty members for professional development or classroom resources. Ms. Melinda Miller, Instructor of Biology, Human A&P, and Forensic Science on the Poplarville Campus, was one of the recipients of this scholarship. Melinda will use the scholarship for classroom resources in her labs. MFACJC also awards faculty members with legislative grants. These grants are to be used to host legislative days or simply meet with local legislators. Mr. Chris Christen, Science and Health Department Chair on the Forrest County Campus (FCC), was awarded a grant to use for the legislative breakfast hosted at FCC. I recommended Ms. Miller and Mr. Christen to MFACJC, and an application process followed the recommendation.

We have several events this spring, so stay tuned for everything that is happening. The FCC Legislative breakfast is coming up on February 7th. The breakfast is an annual event where local leaders are invited to fellowship and be recognized before

commuting to our state capitol. The Poplarville and Hancock Faculty and Staff Association will have its first meeting of the year on February 24th.

Our state association (MFACJC), along with the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges, the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Trustees, the Mississippi Community College Board, and the Mississippi Community College Inter-Alumni Association, are supporting the 2022-2023 Legislative Priorities that were developed and supported by the Mississippi Association of Community College Presidents. The priorities include increases in salaries, funding formula, CTE programs and equipment, and educational technology. A detailed list of the legislative priorities can be viewed by following this [link](#). Our presidents and associations need our help promoting these priorities. We all agree that Pearl River is the best community college in the state and one of the best in the nation. Furthermore, in Mississippi, we are fortunate to boast of having one of the best community college systems in the country. In part, Mississippi Community Colleges have been successful due to the continued support of Mississippi legislators. If we want to maintain our status as “the best,” we must do our part in reminding everyone that the success of Mississippi Community Colleges ultimately means having successful students, partnerships, and communities.

So, what now? What can we do? Your support might be as simple as bringing your best to the classroom. It could mean that you simply live that “happy to help” life and carry a smile with you everywhere you go. Helping to host and attend the FCC Legislative Breakfast may be your way of upholding Mississippi community colleges. For others, backing these priorities will mean having conversations with local and state leaders to make them aware of what the success of community colleges means for Mississippi’s economy. Support will look different for every one of us, but no matter who you are, success starts with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Morris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CELEBRATING
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
 FEBRUARY

POPLARVILLE CAMPUS

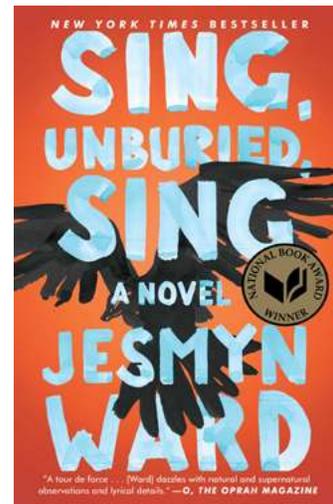
Kendale Lumpkins will be the speaker for the Black History Month Presentation held in the cafeteria's West Dining Room on Thursday, Feb. 10 at 11 a.m. Attendees are welcome to bring their lunch into the West Dining Room to eat during the presentation.

A Diversity in STEM lecture will be held Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 11:30 a.m. in the science building auditorium. Dr. Erick Moffett, instructor of chemistry, will speak about the importance of diversity in the STEM field as well as discuss the path that he took to finding his current career.

FORREST COUNTY CAMPUS

Dr. Raymunda Barnes, Assistant Vice President for Hancock Campus, will speak on February 23 at 11 a.m. in the Dr. Cecil Burt Special Events Room. The theme of this year's Black History month presentation is Black Health and Wellness.

Also on February 23, the FCC Library and Sigma Kappa Delta are hosting a book discussion. The book is "Sing, Unburied, Sing" by Jesmyn Ward. They will meet in the honors room of Building 4 following the Black History Month Presentation. **RRR**



2021 GRAMMY MUSIC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR DR. JEFFREY MURDOCK COMING TO PRCC

The Dr. William Lewis Honors Institute, along with sponsor Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation, will welcome Dr. Jeffrey Murdock to Pearl River Community College's Ethel Holden Brownstone Center For The Arts on Feb. 11.

Murdock, 2021 GRAMMY Music Educator of the Year, will be presenting "A Journey Through Black Music." The evening will also feature the PRCC Singers and East Marion Gospel Choir joining Murdock on stage.

The Honors Institute Lyceum Lecture Series charts a bold direction in intellectual discourse and academic inquiry at Pearl River. The Dr. William Lewis Honors Institute seeks to host speakers who engage, challenge, provoke, and quite possibly, change lives.

Tickets for the event are free with advance seating reservations available at prcc.edu/brownstone/events/dr-jeffrey-murdock



Dr. Jeffrey Murdock
 2021 Grammy Music Educator of the Year

ABOUT DR. JEFFREY MURDOCK

Murdock is internationally known as a conductor, clinician, and skilled gospel musician. He currently serves as Associate Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Arkansas. He is the 2016 Connor Endowed

Faculty Fellow in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Science, and 2019 Most Outstanding Faculty at the University of Arkansas. He is the 2021 GRAMMY Music Educator of the Year.

Murdock has conducted regional and state honor choirs, and headlined conferences in 26 states and 5 countries. His research interests include Culturally Responsive Pedagogy in the Choral Classroom, Music in Urban Schools, and Social Justice in Music Education.

Murdock holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting, both from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Music Education from the University of Memphis. **RRR**

PRCC
cte
CAREER TECH
Works!



ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE PROGRAMS

- Accounting Technology
- Associate Degree Nursing
- Automotive Mechanics Technology
- Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Biomedical Equipment Repair Technology
- Business Marketing & Management Technology
- Business Management Technology
- Computer Networking Technology
- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygiene Technology
- Drafting & Design Technology
- Early Childhood Education Technology
- Electrical Technology
- Electronics Technology
- Film & Video Technology
- Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation & Refrigeration Technology
- Industrial Electronics Technology
- Instrumentation Technology
- Massage Therapy
- Medical Billing & Coding Technology
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Precision Manufacturing & Machining Technology
- Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Care Technology
- Surgical Technology
- Unmanned Systems
- Utility Lineman Technology
- Welding & Cutting Technology

TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Accounting Technology
- Automotive Mechanics Technology
- Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Barbering
- Business & Marketing Management Technology
- Cosmetology
- Dental Assisting
- Electrical Technology
- Film & Video Technology
- Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation & Refrigeration Technology
- Massage Therapy
- Precision Manufacturing & Machining Technology
- Unmanned Systems
- Utility Lineman Technology
- Welding & Cutting Technology

CAREER CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Accounting Technology
- Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Business Management Technology
- Commercial & Residential Construction Technology
- Construction Equipment Operation
- Court Reporter
- Electrical Technology
- Film & Video Technology
- Massage Therapy
- Practical Nursing
- Precision Manufacturing & Machining Technology
- Unmanned Systems
- Welding & Cutting Technology

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION PROGRAMS

- Barbering Instructor Training
- Commercial Truck Driving
- Cosmetology Teacher Training
- Nursing Assistant

THE WILDCAT WAY SHOW WITH MCKINSY HARRIS

The Wildcat Way Show is a [YouTube channel](#) & podcast used to re-affirm our school's mantra PRIDE, RESPECT, CLASS & CHARACTER.

PRCC graduate and current recruiter McKinsy Harris interviews Wildcats who are making a difference in their respective fields. The bi-monthly show aims to share uplifting and motivational aspects of our Wildcat community.

Recent guests include Executive Director of Development Foundation/Alumni Association Delana Harris, Coordinator of Recruitment Kari Eve Valence and PRCC alum Gage Whitten, who is now the Director of Equipment and Apparel for the National Champion University of Georgia football team.

Upcoming interviews this month will feature PRCC cheer coach Sarah Smith (Feb. 1) breaking down the Wildcats' first ever UCA National Championship and



Admissions specialist and head resident Dalton Spiers (Feb. 15) discussing growing up in Poplarville and his evolution from Wildcat student to valued employee; he also gives viewers an glimpse into the world of admissions.

You don't want to miss an episode!

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



PEARL RIVER CHEER CLAIMS FIRST UCA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

All of the Pearl River cheer squad's hard work and dedication over the past months has come to fruition as the Wildcats claimed the Universal Cheerleaders Association's All-Girl National Championship January 15 at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

The championship marks the first in Pearl River's history.

"Words can't even describe how proud I am of the girls," Pearl River coach Sarah Smith said. "The team executed so well, not once but twice; in the most high-pressure situation that you can imagine. These girls are exceptional athletes. They are relentless in their daily pursuit of perfection, and it absolutely set them apart on the nationals floor.

"The key to our victory was strong veteran leadership, focused athletes and high standards for all of our skills."

GETTING IT DONE

The Wildcats performed phenomenally in their two appearances on the weekend. In PRCC's first run, the Wildcats qualified for the finals by scoring 88.7, which led their group.

Despite having such a great first performance, Smith knew there was still work to do in the finals.

"There was never a moment where I knew we would win. Cheerleading is so unpredictable," she said. "One small mistake could cost you everything. The team executed flawlessly

in the semifinals and advanced to the finals in the top spot. At that point, I knew it was possible, but everything hinged on that last performance."

In the finals, the Wildcats competed against The College of New Jersey, Rowan University, Avila University and Webber International University.

Pearl River again put in an incredible performance, scoring an 88.65 which beat its closest opponent by five points and awarded the Wildcats the National Championship.

Smith recalled what her athletes were feeling during the awards ceremony.

"For awards, all the finalists sit on the floor and placements are announced from the bottom to the top. As they awarded placements and our name still hadn't been called, the excitement was indescribable," Smith said. "To hear your name called last is the goal and when it happened, the girls went wild. They earned every bit of the accomplishment they felt in that moment.

"It felt incredible to hear our name called as National Champions. This team has put in so much hard work, and to win was the ultimate award." **RRR**

SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW
PRCCATHLETICS.COM/TICKETS

MEN'S BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL & GOLF ROUNDUP

The Pearl River basketball programs have had continued success in the new year. The men's program currently holds a 15-2 overall record and a perfect 10-0 record in MACCC play. The Wildcats are the only unbeaten team in the conference and recently re-entered the NJCAA rankings at No. 22.

The women's program currently has an overall record of 16-3 and a 9-1 record in its conference matchups. Both records match head coach Scotty Fletcher's highest win total since taking over the program.

The Pearl River golf team is preparing for its first season since being reinstated. The Wildcats are set to get the season underway Feb. 21. **RRR**





NO. 4 PEARL RIVER EYES ANOTHER RUN TO ENID IN 2022

It has been three seasons since the Pearl River baseball team saw itself dogpiling after clinching an NJCAA World Series berth. After claiming the MACCC Championship in 2021, Pearl River has a larger goal in mind heading into 2022: getting back to Enid, Okla.

“I think that one of the tough parts in coaching is making sure that your team understands both the successes that they had and the failures,” head coach Michael Avalon said. “Last year we had a very successful season, but I think that we have a sour taste in our mouth after the way that we finished the regional.

“The goal this year is to build upon the success of last year and get back to the regional and hopefully finish this time.”

ON THE MOUND

This season, Avalon expects Pearl River’s depth at pitcher to set them apart from the competition. Leading the way for the Wildcats on the mound this season will be four returners who have pitched big innings in their careers.

Those starters are Louisiana-Lafayette signee Sam Hill (Soso; West Jones), Southeastern Louisiana signee Dakota Lee (Purvis), South Alabama signee Leif Moore (Ocean Springs; St. Martin) and Tennessee signee Turner Swistak (Hattiesburg; Oak Grove). The Wildcats are also bolstered in the bullpen by the return of closer Byron Robinson (Brookhaven).

Another impact arm for the Wildcats will be redshirt freshman and Nichols State signee Harper Jordan (Hattiesburg; Presbyterian Christian).

In addition to his returners, Avalon highlighted newcomers Bobby Magee (Petal), Will Passeau (Mobile, Ala.; St. Pauls) and

Cole Tolbert (Laurel; West Jones) who should all factor in as relievers.

Some other arms that look to factor in on the mound are returners Mason Smith (Laurel; Northeast Jones), Parker Harrington (Hattiesburg; Oak Grove), Ryan Burt (Columbus; New Hope) and Dawson Strong (Bay St. Louis; St. Stanislaus) as well as newcomers Blake Hooks (Petal), Landen Payne (Ocean Springs; St. Martin), Hayden Nored (Sumrall), Jordan Belsome (Poplarville), Cooper Cooksey (Waveland; Bay), Brennan Jones (Gulfport; West Harrison), Will Martin (Brandon) and J.P. Lyon (Hattiesburg; Oak Grove).

IN THE FIELD

The Wildcats have been reliant on the long-ball the past few seasons, but Avalon expects his offense to look a bit different this season.

Matt Mercer (Richton; Petal) will catch most of the innings this season after splitting time between catcher and outfield last season. Also vying for time behind the plate are freshmen Parker Ryan (Madison; Jackson Academy) and Triston Hickman (Wiggins; Stone).

Returner D.K. Donaldson (Gulfport; West Harrison) will get most of the reps at first base, but freshman Alex Perry (McComb; North Pike) could see time at the position as well.

Second base will be manned by returner Taylor Woodcock (Pass Christian; West Harrison) who battled injury for much of last season.

Taking the other spot in the middle infield will be the slick-fielding John Griffin Bell (Mobile, Ala.; Faith Academy).

Preston Soper (Madison; Germantown) and Perry should both see time at third base. In left field, redshirt freshman Logan Walters (Petal) should see a lot of the reps with Burt seeing time at the position when he isn’t featuring on the mound.

The surest thing of all the positions is NJCAA First Team All-American and reigning MACCC Player of the Year Tate Parker (Gulfport; West Harrison) manning center field.

Avalon expects Ian Montz (Lafayette, La.; Acadiana) to be a staple in right field. Designated hitter will feature Walters, Mercer and Burt. Gabe Broadus (Wilmer, Ala.; Faith Academy) and Cole Fletcher (Picayune; St. Stanislaus) should also see ample time in utility roles. **RRR**

View full article [HERE](#).



NO. 17 PEARL RIVER BOASTS EXPERIENCED '22 ROSTER

The No. 17 Pearl River softball Wildcats are ready to build on the successes of the 2021 season. The difference heading into this season is the experience that Pearl River possesses compared to previous rosters.

"It's wonderful to have as many returners as we do. Practice day one was much easier this season than in the past seasons," said head coach Christie Meeks. "We had 14 freshmen last year, this time they're our returners. I expect this team to conduct themselves like they are experienced.

"They now know what conference is going to be like and they know the importance of every game. Every game matters and every game counts, especially in conference play. Each team in our conference is extremely tough and hard to beat. You have to be on your toes and make sure you're focused every game. That's my expectations for this team, to show their experience in this league."

Meeks feels that the Wildcats will be led by their pitching and ability to run the bases.

"I believe that we are strong in the circle and behind the plate," she said. "That's two areas that we have pushed hard, especially with me being a pitching coach and having Coach (Hannah) Sparks who played at the highest level as a catcher. We believe that we have good speed and can run the bases.

"It helps to have a former All-American on your staff in Coach (Simone) McKinney who is coaching the bases. Those are definitely three areas that we have pushed and feel we are strong in. I think that's what will lead us."

IN THE FIELD

The lineup card for the Wildcats may look different from day-to-day as the Wildcats have a lot of depth at each position. Behind the dish, Pearl River will send out returner Aunie Rethmeyer (Belle Chasse, La.) as well as freshman Dallyn Nance (Nanih Waiya).

First base will include sophomores Cassady Bradford (Saucier; West Harrison), Erin Daughtery (Vanceleave) and Keigan Pearson (Carriere; Pearl River Central) as well as newcomer Julianah Overstreet (Vanceleave). The middle infield will feature returners Taelor York (Choctaw; Clinton Christian Academy), Hannah Miller (Kokomo; West Marion) and Madi Waters (Laurel; West Jones).

At third base, the Wildcats look to returner Makiya Hunter (Jackson; Clinton Christian Academy) and freshman Jena Pacheco (Vanceleave).

Seeing time in left field will be Emily Rigney (Waynesboro; Wayne County) and Nance. Centerfield will be led by Payton Lee (Picayune; Pearl River Central) and Rigney. Right field will feature Nance, Cassidy Cartwright (Poplarville), Bethany Fewell (Mendenhall) and Janna Peterson (Poplarville).

The designated player will rotate between Daughtery, Bradford, Pearson, Overstreet, Hunter and Pacheco.

Freshman Kallie Hunt (Picayune) will be a utility player.

IN THE CIRCLE

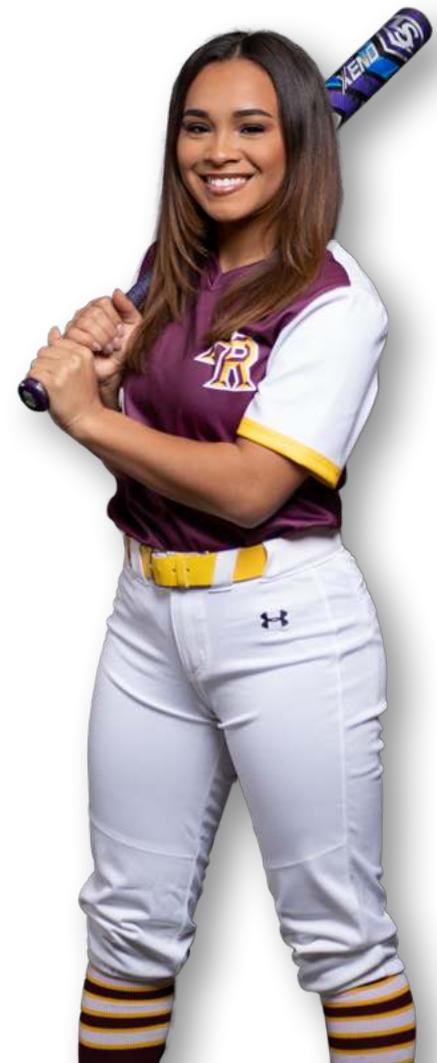
Pearl River's pitchers have a chance to really impact the game in the 2022 season.

Returning to lead the rotation is First Team All-MACCC selection Hannah Embry (Vicksburg; Porters Chapel Academy).

Also returning for the Wildcats is Madelyn Burch (Franklinton, La.; Bowling Green). Another impactful arm for the Wildcats will be Louisiana-Lafayette transfer Brinson Anne Rogers (Statesboro, Ga.).

Freshman Makaya Necaie (Kiln; Hancock) also looks to factor into the pitching. **RRR**

View full article [HERE](#).





COMMITTED HEADLINES CONCERT TO WRAP UP A CAPELLA WORKSHOP AT PRCC

NBC's "The Sing-Off" champion Committed brought plenty of positive energy to Pearl River Community College's Brownstone Center of the Arts on January 14. The concert ended a day of workshops for a capella groups from around the region.

A Cappella 101 is an annual Mississippi American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) event that is hosted at PRCC. The day included individual group coaching and breakout sessions targeted at singers and directors. Spending time with the five members of Committed was part of the day's experience.

The evening concert began with each of the five schools that attended the workshop having the opportunity to perform.

The Greenwood Singing Bulldogs performed "When I Think About the Lord." Brandon Middle School's group, Brilliance, sang a song titled "Natalie." Sounds of PRC from Pearl River Central High School sang "Stitches." PRCC's own, The Voices,

performed three selections: "Plastic Hearts," "Every Breath You Take," and "Greedy." Finally, OneVoice from Briarcrest Christian School in Tennessee sang "Wings" and "Scars to Your Beautiful."

After the school performances, Committed set the tone for the evening for audience participation. The initial song, "Don't Worry, Be Happy," had a three-part harmony that was quickly taught to the audience.

During introductions of each member, the audience learned that the group is heavily influenced by the Jamaican artist Bob Marley. They also discussed how they have been able to travel the world, sharing harmonies for over a decade while also teaching groups. Also, audience members were informed that Brent Hoyle was subbing for their regular bass.

Other selections sung included custom arrangements of familiar songs like "One Love, One Heart," "Battle Cry of Freedom," and "What's Going On?" They also performed the original piece, "Do Anything."

Later in the concert, the four choir directors in attendance were brought on stage for an arrangement of "I Can See Clearly Now" that was learned on the fly. The high school students were thrilled to see their directors perform with the group and members of Committed encouraged video recording and sharing of that piece.

To finish the evening, the audience was invited to dance in the aisles as they sang the oldie, but goodie, "September."

ABOUT COMMITTED

Committed, which is comprised of Robbie Pressley, Theron "Therry" Thomas, Maurice Staple, Dennis "DJ" Baptiste Jr., and Geston Pierre won Season 2 of the NBC hit musical competition The Sing-Off in December 2010 where they sang a cappella arrangements of "Motownphilly" with Boyz II Men and "Hold My Hand" by Michael Jackson & Akon. **RRR**

Buy tickets online,
over the phone, or in-person!

BROWNSTONECENTER.COM

601.403.1180

Moody Hall, Office 214
101 Highway 11 North
Poplarville, MS 39470



2022 SPRING EVENTS

"A Journey Through Black Music" – Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.
featuring 2021 Grammy Music Educator of the Year, Dr. Jeffrey Murdock

Spring Variety Show – Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.

The Little Mermaid – April 7 & 8 at 7 p.m. | April 9 at 2 p.m.

Wind Ensemble & Concert Band – April 12 at 7 p.m.

JazzCats & The Voices – April 21 at 7 p.m.

Follow Us!



[@ prccmktg](#)



[@ prccwildcats](#)



[@ prcc_wildcats](#)



[@ prccsocial](#)



[@ pearl river community college](#)



[@ pearl river community college](#)



[@ prcc_wildcats](#)



[@ pearlrivercollege](#)



[@ pearlrivercc](#)



PEARL RIVER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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. 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. 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; 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

You may also select the "Marketing Request Form" button inside the new RiverGuide. You can also directly email inquiries to media@prcc.edu.

RUCKEL, DONOHUE SET TO CONTINUE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE FOR HONORS INSTITUTE AT PRCC



Dr. Ryan Ruckel and Dr. Doug Donohue have been named new deans of Pearl River Community College's Dr. William Lewis Honors Institute at the Forrest County Campus in Hattiesburg.

Dr. Ruckel will serve as the second Dean of the Honors Institute. Dr. Donohue will serve as the Associate Dean.

They will work collaboratively across all PRCC campuses to plan joint opportunities for Honors students.

"We are so fortunate to have both Dr. Ruckel and Dr. Donohue leading the education of the very talented and bright students of our Dr. William Lewis Honors college at the Forrest County Campus," said Dr. Jana Causey, Vice President for Forrest County Center, Allied Health and Nursing Programs. "Dr. Ruckel has been involved with the honors college since its inception and played a huge part in laying the foundation that has paved a road of success for this program. Dr. Donohue has also been involved from the beginning in which he served as honors faculty to teach and mentor these students."

Dr. Ruckel is a graduate of Oak Grove High (1984), Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds a doctorate in history from Louisiana State University.

He has served the students of PRCC for the past 25 years as an instructor of History and English. He also serves as the Mississippi-Louisiana Regional Coordinator of Phi

Theta Kappa Honor Society, a Phi Theta Kappa chapter advisor, and Chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department.

"The full support of the faculty, staff, and administration at Pearl River has empowered us to build a magnificent 'opportunity engine' by which our students have gained access to world-class scholarships and experiences," said Dr. Ruckel. "I am deeply honored to have been entrusted with the responsibility of generating even more opportunities for even more individuals who can come to PRCC and find their future."

Dr. Donohue, a 1988 graduate of Hattiesburg High, earned a doctorate in Community College Leadership from Mississippi State University. He is also an alumnus of USM and of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

He has served the students of PRCC for the past 18 years as an instructor of Mathematics and Statistics, as a member of the Honors faculty, and as an advisor for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

He is a graduate of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy, a past president of the Mississippi Faculty Association for Community Colleges, and a current student pursuing additional graduate work in Economics at Harvard University.

"I am honored that PRCC has entrusted me with the care and development of some of the best and brightest students in south Mississippi," said Dr. Donohue. "I am excited to work with Dr. Ruckel to champion these amazing young scholars and create opportu-

continued on page 9

continued from page 8

nities for them to grow and flourish under the guidance of the outstanding Honors faculty at the Forrest County campus.”

Dr. Jennifer Seal will continue to serve as the Dean of the Honors Institute at the Poplarville Campus.

PRCC Honors alumni have gone on to earn scholarships and degrees from colleges and universities across the country including

Michigan, Columbia, Tulane, Kansas, Colorado, William Carey, Ole Miss, South Alabama, Mississippi College, Millsaps College, Mississippi State, Jackson State, Mississippi University for Women, Alabama, Louisiana State, and Southern Miss.

Several students from the PRCC Honors Institute have received the coveted Jack Kent Cooke transfer scholarship, and many

others have earned transfer scholarships that covered their costs to complete their degrees.

Prospective students who are interested in learning how to become Honors Institute scholars should send e-mail to rtruckel@prcc.edu or ddonohue@prcc.edu. **RRR**

PEARL RIVER OFFERING APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS COURSE FOR EDUCATORS

Educators looking to earn Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) Certification can get one step closer by taking the Applied Behavior Analysis course offered this spring at Pearl River Community College. For the third year in a row, educators located in PRCC’s six-county district (Forrest, Hancock, Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Marion, and Pearl River) can take the course for free.

Applied behavior analysis uses a scientific approach to understand behaviors, particularly as to how they are impacted by the environment and how learning occurs. The goal is to establish and reinforce socially important behaviors that will enhance independence and quality of life for the student. This approach can work with individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) as well as other developmental disorders.

Any assistant teacher or teacher who is working with autistic students or other types of special needs students can benefit from this course. It offers the training required to qualify for observation in practice by a certified professional and then eventually sit for a national board exam for RBT certification.

The course is encouraged by Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann and is not offered widely across the state. PRCC is the second community college in Mississippi and one of only five higher education institutions in the state to offer it.

The course will be delivered as a Term 2, seven-week, synchronous online hybrid that begins in March 2022. Interested individuals need to apply to PRCC as a student and then complete a special form available from FCC Administrative Assistant Michelle Campbell at mowen@prcc.edu. **RRR**



PEARL RIVER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PSY 2543

Applied Behavior Analysis

All Different, Yet All Belong

Learn where YOU fit in with Autism!
Your First Piece to Completing
Registered Behavior Technician Certification!

For more information: Michelle Campbell | 601.554.5525 | mmcampbell@prcc.edu
Become a student: www.prcc.edu | Register for the Course: 



NOW OFFERING Applied Behavior Analysis (PSY 2543)
Some synchronous (Webex) (Tuesday nights, 6-9:15 pm).
Others Hybrid/Online. First Session: Tuesday, March 8, 2022.
PRCC FORREST COUNTY CAMPUS (Hattiesburg, MS)
FREE to Educators in the PRCC District:
Forrest|Hancock|Jefferson Davis|Lamar|Marion|Pearl River Counties

Spotlights!



HEATH LADNER

INSTRUCTOR, WELDING & CUTTING TECHNOLOGY
POPLARVILLE CAMPUS

Heath graduated with an AAS in Welding and Cutting Technology from PRCC. He first taught for Workforce Training from 2009–2011 and then became a full time instructor in July 2014.

He currently calls Saucier home where he lives with his wife, Catrina. When he isn't teaching, Heath enjoys spending time outdoors, particularly hunting. He also enjoys cooking as well as spending time with his family and friends.

"Our team at PRCC is like one big family, and everyone is always willing to help."



RICHIE LEWIS

WORKFORCE PROJECT MANAGER
FORREST COUNTY CAMPUS

Richie has a BSBA degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and an MBA from Delta State University. Originally from Gulfport, he has lived in Hattiesburg since 2010. He joined the staff at PRCC in 2019.

He is married to Dr. Lindsey Lewis, PRCC Instructor of Speech Communication at the Poplarville campus, and has two children, Rylan and Ramsey.

He enjoys watching Saints and FSU football, following the stock market, being active at Parkway Heights United Methodist Church, going to the gym, spending time with family.

"PRCC is committed to excellence in education through all avenues. I think it's the best community college in Mississippi with a very inclusive and welcoming environment. Our organization does a great job of leading and serving our students and communities. Our motto "Happy to Help" can be seen every day through all members of



ELIJAH LAW

STUDENT, HANCOCK CAMPUS
UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

Elijah is a Kiln resident and graduate of Hancock High School.

When he isn't in class, he enjoys playing video games, drawing items that catch his eye, and spending time with family and friends.

After graduation in May, he plans to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He wants to eventually move to the Atlanta area and work in the movie industry.

"PRCC was a good choice to start my educational career. Attending a JUCO helps me with pacing myself."

New Hires!

January 2022

NEW EMPLOYEES

- Janet Armour** Librarian/Testing Proctor (Hancock Center)
- Jasmine Hicks** Office of SSC Administrative Assistant
- Victoria Michele** Child Development Lab School Assistant
- Amy S. Stevens** Customer Service Agent
- Jennifer L. Turner** Child Development Lab School Assitant

STAFF CHANGES/NEW POSITIONS

- Michelle Ancalade** Head Resident, Huff Hall (Men)
- Heather Baker** eLearning Test Proctor
- Austin (AJ) Davis** Head Resident, Pearl River Hall (Men)
- Dr. Amy Duke** Online Mathematics Instructor
- Victoria McMullan** Administrative Assistant for Forrest County Campus
- Maxie (Shelly) Mitchell** Bookstore Assistant (part-time)
- M. Walker Mosby** Assistant Football Coach - Offensive Coordinator
- Dr. Aaryn Purvis** Online Sociology Instructor
- Dr. Terri Ruckel** Online English Instructor
- Dalton Spiers** Head Resident, Marion Hall (Men)
- Ty Trahan** Wellness Center Assistant

TITLE CHANGES

- Carley Alexander** Adult Education Instructor (Poplarville)
- Emilie Aplin** Technical Processing Librarian (Poplarville)
- Hollye Callahan** Proctoring Center Coordinator (Forrest County Campus)
- Dr. Douglas Donohue** Instructor of Mathematics (Forrest County Campus)
Assistant Honors Institute Dean (Forrest County Campus)
- Alexis Gupton** Testing Center Proctor (Forrest County Campus)
- Dominica Nobles** Testing Proctor (Poplarville)
- Dr. Ryan Ruckel** Instructor of History/Dean of Honors Institute
- Michael Schafer** Technical Processing Assistant (Poplarville)
- Linda Spiers** Testing Proctor (Poplarville)

STUDENT LIFE





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

www.prcc.edu

601.403.1000

 @prccmktg

 @prccwildcats

 @PRCC_Wildcats

 @prccsocial

 @Pearl River Community College

 @Pearl River Community College

 @PRCC_Wildcats

 @pearlrivercollege

 @pearlrivercc

