

THE RIVER IS RISING REPORT

MARCH 2022

CROSBY



PEARL RIVER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



THE RIVER IS RISING | MARCH 2022

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Pearl River Community College Alumni Association & Development Foundation



Delana Harris, Executive Director
Development Foundation & Alumni Services

Hello Wildcat Family and Friends,

Spring is almost here! As a current employee and former student at Pearl River Community College, I have always enjoyed the way our campuses look and feel during the Spring season. In South Mississippi, Spring can be enjoyed as early as late February and often extends through May. The cool mornings, warm, sunny days along with the beautiful display of green leaves and pink Azalea blooms make the perfect backdrop for our campus events. Athletic events including basketball, baseball, softball, fine arts productions and graduation make the Spring semester extra special for our students and Wildcat family.

The Development Foundation is excited to host several events this spring including our Alumni Awards program that will be held on May 12, 2022 at the Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg, MS. This event will include the celebration of our Lifetime Achievement Award as well as several other alumni awards and recognitions. You can be part of the awards ceremony by nominating former Wildcats and friends of PRCC. There are several categories for nominations. Visit www.prcc.edu/alumni-awards for details of each category and for the nomination form. The Awards Committee will review each nomination and recipients will be selected for each category.

Several new scholarships have been formed through the Foundation this year. The Foundation Scholarships are a great way to support student success at PRCC. If you are interested in

OUR GOAL...

Our goal is to honor the strong history and traditions of the past while guiding a new generation of Wildcats into tomorrow.

—Delana Harris

setting up a scholarship through the Development Foundation, please visit our website at www.prcc.edu/alumni/foundation or call our office to talk with someone about the scholarship process. We are always happy to discuss scholarship and donation options, and information with our supporters.

It's now easier than ever to join the PRCC Alumni Association! We are excited to announce an online application and payment system for our alumni. Joining the Alumni Association is a great way to stay connected to PRCC, and support the college while gaining access to numerous alumni benefits included with your membership. Visit www.prcc.edu/alumni/jointoday to submit your alumni application.

The college will be hosting several events this spring semester. We personally invite you to attend these activities and performances to show support for our current Wildcats. To keep up-to-date regarding upcoming events, visit our website at www.prcc.edu or follow Pearl River Community College on social media.

Thank you for the support to PRCC and our local communities!

Go Wildcats!

DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION



Sitting (left to right): Mrs. Floyd Robbins (Vice Chairman), Mr. John Clearman (Chairman), Mrs. Charlotte Travis, Mrs. Tracy Waits
Standing (left to right): Mr. John Hall, Mr. Francis Herrin, Dr. Jay Rayborn, Mr. Mark Wallace, Mr. John Houston, Mr. Allen Anderson, Mr. Sidney Malone, Mr. Jay Lagasse

Be the Change!



The “Be the Change” campaign was officially launched in January 2022 with the mission to aid in student success at PRCC! The effort was designed to internally generate support for students through a scholarship at Pearl River provided by contributions from faculty, staff and administration. Employees of PRCC are invited to donate the change or cents from each payroll cycle to the Foundation in support of the scholarship.

The Foundation currently has 37 employees contributing over \$170 each month through the campaign. Although small in numbers, the impact is large when multiplied over 12 months. These contri-

butions will afford a full-tuition scholarship for one student in the fall of 2022 and proves that sometimes small can equal BIG results. Employees that are interested in contributing to this fund can do so by visiting www.prcc.edu/bethechange.

Employees who contribute to the scholarship will be notified of eligible students and will participate in the selection process. **RRR**

ALUMNI AWARDS

The Pearl River Community College Alumni Association and Development Foundation annually recognizes individuals, groups, and organizations that have earned both personal and professional achievement while also displaying the values of PRCC, culminating in the Alumni Awards banquet.

Categories include Lifetime Achievement Award, Alumnus of the Year, Distinguished Service Award, Young Alumnus of the Year and Outstanding Partnership.

To assist with the process this year, PRCC has created an online nomination form that can be found at [PRCC.edu/alumni-awards](https://prcc.edu/alumni-awards).

"We are excited to offer our alumni and supporters a way to nominate individuals and groups that significantly contribute to the success of our college and communities," said Delana Harris, Executive Director of Alumni Association and Development Foundation. "Staying connected to alumni is a critical component to growing the Foundation and our alumni support."

"We genuinely love to celebrate the success of our alumni and friends of PRCC! We have so many former Wildcats that are outstanding representatives of PRCC and the college's mission to provide educational opportunities."

The nomination process is simple and can be completed quickly.

The deadline to nominate for the 2022 Alumni Awards is March 11. Submissions after the deadline will be considered for '23.

Criteria for each honor is listed below:

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

- Must have attended PRCC for at least one semester
- Nominee is distinguished in his/her chosen profession
- Has achieved great merit both professionally and personally
- Displays high levels of integrity
- Must not be a current PRCC employee

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

- Must have attended PRCC for at least one semester
- Has achieved great merit both professionally and personally
- Displays high levels of integrity
- Displayed a strong connection to PRCC (attending events, financial support, vocal support, children/family that attend PRCC)

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

- The nominee can be a non-alumnus
- Makes a significant contribution to their community through service, support and/or volunteering
- Displays high levels of integrity
- Displayed a strong connection to PRCC (attending events, financial support, vocal support, children/family that attend PRCC)

YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

- Must have attended PRCC for at least one semester
- Must be under 40 years old at the time of the nomination
- Displays high levels of integrity
- Has made a mark of distinction in his/her profession and community
- Is a rising star in their industry and/or profession

OUTSTANDING PARTNERSHIP

- A company or organization that provides support to PRCC through funding, training, employment of graduates, vocal support, etc.
- Displays high levels of integrity

The banquet will be held at 6 p.m. May 12 at the Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg. **RRR**

"We have so many former Wildcats that are outstanding representatives of PRCC and the college's mission to provide educational opportunities."

—Delana Harris

DR. ADAM BREERWOOD INDUCTED INTO WILLIAM CAREY SPORTS HALL OF FAME



Pearl River President Dr. Adam Breerwood was inducted into the William Carey Sports Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Hattiesburg on Feb. 12.

Dr. Breerwood signed with head coach Bobby Halford's William Carey Crusader baseball team after a prolific career at Pearl River. With WCU, Dr. Breerwood earned All-Gulf South Atlantic Conference and All-Region honors in 1996 and 1997, as well as NAIA All-American honorable mention status his senior season.

Dr. Breerwood is already a member of the Carey Alumni Hall of Fame. **RRR**



Four students from Pearl River Community College have been named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team for 2021-22.

Students selected from the Iota Mu chapter on the Poplarville campus are sophomores Erin Clifford of Ocean Springs and Takia Young of Lumberton.

Students selected from the Beta Tau Gamma chapter, located at PRCC's Forrest

County Campus in Hattiesburg, are sophomores Patrick Dunkle of Petal and Shui Lin of Hattiesburg.

Clifford's a Political Science major with a Pre-Law emphasis. She hopes to serve as a child-advocacy attorney one day. She currently serves as president for the Iota Mu Chapter and as the Career Technical Education representative for the MS/LA Region of PTK.

Young is majoring in nursing with a minor in Spanish. She serves as the Student Body secretary and the Vice President of Scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa. She plans to attend The University of Southern Mississippi to take part in the nursing program.

Dunkle, 19, a Civil Engineering major, plans to attend Mississippi State University. He is president of Phi Theta Kappa and a member of Mu Alpha Theta and the Dr. William Lewis Honors Institute.

Lin, 30, is a computer science software engineering major who plans to attend Columbia University or Stony Brook University.

Lin serves as VP of the Beta Tau Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and is a Mississippi-Louisiana regional officer. He is also a member of Mu Alpha Theta, Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society, the Science Club, and an officer in the Dr. William Lewis Honors Institute. **RRR**

WOMEN'S HEALTH SYMPOSIUM RETURNS TO PRCC FOR 15TH YEAR

Women from around the area gathered in January for the 15th annual Women's Health Symposium at Pearl River Community College. The overall focus was education in the areas of personal health and fitness with this year's presentation covering mental health.

The event, which was split into two sessions, was made possible through the generosity of Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation, Gold Sponsor; Aladdin Campus Dining, Hancock Whitney, Highland Community Hospital, Mississippi Power, and Pearl River County Hospital & Nursing Home, Silver Sponsors; and BankPlus, First National Bank of Picayune, Southern Bone & Joint Specialists, P.A., and Walmart Supercenter of Picayune, Bronze Sponsors.

The sessions began with a welcome by Dr. Jennifer Seal, chair of the Women's Health Symposium Steering Committee, before the general session began.

"We are so grateful to be able to convene for the 15th annual Pearl River Community College Women's Health Symposium (WHS)," said Seal. "The WHS Steering committee used a creative approach to allow for both participants and distancing

throughout the event. It was satisfying to see the smiles on the faces of the participants and the vendors alike. The support and vision of our sponsors allowed for a spectacular, healthy, educational event."

Dr. Bev Smallwood, psychologist and founder of The Hope Center in Hattiesburg, was the general session speaker. She is passionate about helping people discover and live their life purpose. This includes retreats and other growth experiences that have gone online in the last few years.

Her topic was "The World's Gone Crazy, But You Don't Have to." She shared four secrets to staying sane: choose to choose,

concentrate on the cans, mind your mindset, and live your purpose on purpose.

Between the presentation and meal, attendees were able to peruse handmade items at the Art Walk, access health screenings, and visit vendors for more information on ways to live healthier.

Many of the women donated towards the Dr. Becky Askey Scholarship for Medical Students with the purchase of raffle tickets for three designer handbags. The funds raised were enough to provide two scholarships for females entering a healthcare field.

RRR



PRCC RECEIVES \$25,000 WAVES GRANT FOR 3RD STRAIGHT YEAR



For the third year in a row, Pearl River Community College has received a \$25,000 grant from the Women's Foundation of Mississippi. This is the fourth time that PRCC has been a recipient.

The WAVES (Women Achieving Victories and Education Success) grant is used to support women with a clear financial need to further their education. The grant is used to cover part or all of a student's childcare needs.

During the last grant cycle, a total of 18 students were helped. Career and Technical Student Services Coordinator Tina Coleman serves as the program administrator. She hopes to exceed that number this semester. The program has seen six students complete their degrees so far.

"The WAVES grant is changing lives by using

a two-generation approach to education," said Coleman. "By requiring participating daycares have an education program, the Foundation is not only supporting the education of the student, but also the child.

"The goal is to offer opportunities for economically challenged students while closing the educational gap in early childhood education for their children."

Students currently enrolled at PRCC are eligible to apply. For future semesters, students can apply by visiting www.prcc.edu/academics/womens-foundation-ms-grant.

PRCC is one of 11 Mississippi-based programs that were given a 2021 annual grant. The investments fall in four of the priority areas identified by the Foundation: Better Futures: Two-Generation approach, Two-Generation Community College,

Healthy Women, and Access to Opportunity: Community College. PRCC falls into the Two-Generation Community College category.

CCAMPIS GRANT

Some funds are still available through Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The CCAMPIS grant assists qualifying students who are also parents of young children with the cost of daycare.

Grants funds may be used for both off-campus state-certified daycare centers and the PRCC Child Development Lab School. Students must be enrolled for 15 or more credit hours during the semester.

To apply for funds, complete the CCAMPIS application at www.surveymonkey.com/r/PRCC_CCAMPIS Application. For more information, please call (601) 403-1317.

ABOUT WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF MISSISSIPPI

The mission of the Women's Foundation of Mississippi is economic security for women. Originally a fund housed at the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson, the Women's Foundation has been an independent 501(c)(3) since 2008. In that time, the Foundation has awarded more than \$5 million in grants benefiting nonprofits, programs, and educational institutions across Mississippi. Learn more about the Women's Foundation of Mississippi by visiting our website at www.womensfoundationms.org. **RRR**

STUDENTS RECEIVE \$500 MACHINE SHOP SCHOLARSHIPS



Pearl River Community College students Thomas Bush and Mitchell Greer have been awarded \$500 Harry Cole Machine Shop Scholarships this semester.

Bush, 18, and Greer, 20, are freshmen majoring in Precision Machining Manufacturing at the Forrest County Campus. They are from Purvis and attended Purvis High School.

For more information about the Precision Manufacturing and Machine Technology program, contact Robby Shaw at 601-403-1262 or email rshaw@prcc.edu. **RRR**

PRCC FOUNDATION HOSTS DONOR APPRECIATION DAYS



Donors attending the event on Forrest County Campus included (left to right): Thomas Carr, Dr. Stanley Hill, Julie Pierce, Nancy Regan, Bill Sanford

Pearl River Community College donors recently got to see firsthand where their charitable donations are being used. The PRCC Alumni Association and Development Foundation launched the Donor Appreciation Days to show Wildcat supporters exactly how — and who — their money is helping. Each stop at the Forrest County and Poplarville campuses included informative discussions and hands-on tours of PRCC's facilities, many of which have been updated or renovated within the last couple of years.

Executive Director Delana Harris shared information about changes that have been made since she began her new role at PRCC, including a new way of marketing the Foundation scholarships to students and moving to digital forms for the alumni application and Alumni Awards nominations. Harris was joined by new Coordinator of Alumni Services Mary Alice Chandler. Both Harris and Chandler are PRCC graduates who are passionate about helping future Wildcats achieve their goals while helping to remove financial barriers.

"Under Dr. Breerwood's leadership our college has experienced tremendous growth," said Harris. "This has allowed PRCC to expand its services and offerings to better accommodate our students. This includes new dorms and renovation projects.

"It is important for our alumni and donors to 'see' the college's plans and how we are continuing to serve our communities. Each day was designed to focus on a different area of the college from allied health, career and technical education to academics and fine arts. Our goal within the Foundation is to invite our alumni and supporters to campus whenever possible to keep them connected to our college's history and future."

The first day was held at the Forrest County Campus with several students from the

Honors Institute as well as faculty and administrative leaders present. Vice President for Forrest County Center, Allied Health and Nursing Programs Dr. Jana Causey provided an overview of PRCC campus updates while Dean of Career and Technical Instruction at Forrest County Campus Dr. James David Collum addressed items specific to FCC. After the presentations, donors went on a tour of the campus, spending time in different areas to learn more about the facilities and types of training received by students.

The second day was specific for donors to Career Technical Education pathway scholarships and was held in the CTE building on the Poplarville Campus. Along with a few nursing students, most of the CTE programs had an instructor in attendance who could answer specific questions about their program. Vice President for Poplarville Campus and Student Services Jeff Long spoke about recent updates on the campus as well as future changes planned during 2022. Dean of Career & Technical Education for Poplarville and Hancock Campuses Dr. Amy Townsend then discussed the CTE programs including the strong need of local employers for PRCC graduates and the latest programs being pursued to meet demands in the area.

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CTE Donor Day attendees included (left to right): Nursing student Lauren Haik, Mr. Craig Griffing, Mrs. Carol Williams, and nursing student Genifer Jones



Long time donors gathered on the Poplarville Campus. **Back row (left to right):** Mrs. Diane Holden, Dr. Thomas Holden, Mr. Walt Lowe, Mr. Connie Sprinkell, and Mr. Mark Wallace. **Front row (left to right):** Mr. Dan Lund, Dr. Carole Lund, Mrs. Erlene Smith, Mrs. Becky Sprinkell, Dr. Jennifer Seal, and Dr. John Grant

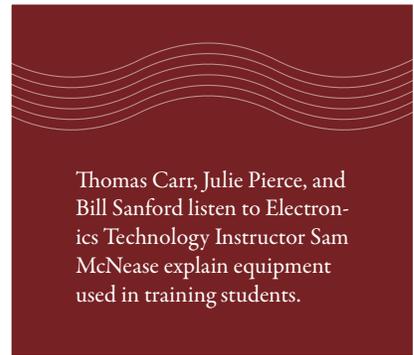
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The final day was held on the Poplarville Campus. PRCC President Dr. Adam Breerwood provided an overview of the college including building improvements, growth of the college, and upcoming projects. Senior Vice President for Instruction/Provost Dr. Martha Smith then highlighted

academic and fine arts programs on the Poplarville campus. She also talked about the growth of eLearning that allows students to take their courses online. The event was punctuated by tours of newly renovated Seal Hall and the James Barnes STEM building.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

The Pearl River Community College Development Foundation Inc. accepts donations to fund a variety of scholarships or to help support the college as recommended by the Pearl River Community College Administration and approved by the Pearl River Development Foundation Board of Directors. Donations can be made electronically at prcc.edu/alumni/donate for several areas including the general scholarship fund. For more information about the Foundation, contact Harris at dharris@prcc.edu. PRCC alumni can visit www.prcc.edu/alumni/jointoday to become a member of the Alumni Association. Currently, there are four chapters in the six-county district. Nominations for the upcoming Alumni Awards are being taken until March 11 at prcc.edu/alumni-awards. **RRR**



PRCC cte CAREER TECH Works!

February was Career Technical Education Month and Pearl River Community College embraces this path to a new career for many students. Different certificate and degree options are available across the three campuses: Forrest County Campus, Hancock Campus, and Poplarville Campus.

CTE programs are growing with about 12.5 million United States high school and college students enrolled in one. These programs specialize in skilled trades, applied sciences, modern technologies, and career preparation. A key component of the programs is the use of equipment and tools students will use in their new careers.

“At Pearl River, we work hard to ensure our CTE students have access to cutting-edge technology and work-based learning opportunities,” said Dean of Career and Technical Instruction at Forrest County Campus Dr. James David Collum. “Most importantly, we have faculty who make student success their number one priority.

“Students leave PRCC with the necessary skills, certifications, and degrees to succeed in their chosen careers. In addition to these essential skills, students also gain a passion for their future careers that can only come from dedicated instructors. I believe this combination makes PRCC the perfect

choice for someone looking to take their next step towards a new career in life.”

Students interested in pursuing a CTE pathway have a wide range of options available. With the addition of Commercial and Residential Construction, Massage Therapy, Coding Technology, and Court Reporting, PRCC now offers more than 40 different CTE pathways across its locations. The current list of options can be found at prcc.edu/cte with links to each individual program’s information page.

Applying for admission to PRCC is the first

step, by visiting PRCC.edu/admissions. Some pathways have additional admissions requirements as listed on the program’s page.

CAREERS AFTER GRADUATION

Across the different disciplines, CTE graduates have a high rate of employment after completing their training or associates degree. Job placement rates for PRCC graduates across all the CTE programs have hovered around 80-85 percent over the past few years.

“Our local business and industry workforce needs continue to grow as more technically skilled workers are required,” said Dr. Amy Townsend, Dean of Career & Technical Education for Poplarville and Hancock Campuses. “We continually strive to provide our students with the best learning environment, help them reach their incredible potential, and be that connection for the next step of their journey by linking them with business and industry partners. Career Tech Works!”

Stepping straight into a career after graduation worked well for La’Mya LeFlore. She is currently working at Highland Community Hospital in Picayune and genuinely loves her job.

Originally from Hattiesburg, LeFlore sought out the Medical Laboratory Technology program on the Forrest County Campus as her entry into a medical field. Working more behind the scenes with a heavy reliance on science was appealing to her. PRCC was her choice of school given the smaller class sizes and more personal connections to the instructors.

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“My CTE program of choice allowed me to immediately enter the workforce with no hesitation,” said LeFlore. “I was taught all the foundations of learning plus more that I needed to enter the work force. My instructors were very much hands on, reassuring, and helped us prepare for our boards.

“The program also helped me get placed with a job. My teachers recommended me for my current job. I’m very glad that I decided to take the CTE program route.”

Jasper Loftin feels similar to LeFlore. He completed the Biomedical Equipment Repair Technology program and went straight to work after graduation. He is currently an Imaging Specialist Engineer in radiology at Crothall HealthCare at Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

“PRCC is close to my hometown of Columbia, has a good reputation, and proved cost effective to attend,” said Loftin. “I have always enjoyed problem solving and fixing things. My current job allows me to make a difference behind the scenes in healthcare.

“It is rewarding to know that I am making it easier for nurses and doctors to provide patient care.”

CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION

Some students find themselves stacking career technical degrees or certificates to further strengthen their marketability in the workforce.

For current dental assisting student Brienne Penton, completion of the program will lead to an application for the dental hygiene program at PRCC.

“I knew that this dental program would allow me to obtain the basic critical knowledge and clinical experience I needed to prepare me for a career in dentistry,” said Penton. “I chose to attend PRCC because it has successful allied health programs plus you receive more thorough teaching and help from your instructors to ensure well-rounded success.”

CTE Associates of Applied Science degrees can also lay the foundation for further studies at four-year institutions. Currently, Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women (The W), and University of Southern Mississippi offer pathways for CTE graduates.

Lauren Lee of Carriere will graduate from the Business Marketing and Management program this May. The program was chosen to give her basic marketing knowledge that can be useful to open and operate her own business in the future. Before that happens, she plans to earn her bachelor’s degree in marketing at Mississippi State University.

“I chose PRCC because it was such an affordable option for me,” said Lee. “The close distance to my family was also a plus, and it made The River a great steppingstone into independence straight after high school.”

ALLIED HEALTH GROWTH

In the last few years, more attention has been paid to the healthcare system and deficiencies in staffing across the country. Many of the allied health programs at PRCC are finding a high demand for their graduates with no end to the need in sight.

“As a result of COVID-19, many weaknesses have been exposed in our healthcare system,” said Vice President for Forrest County Center, Allied Health and Nursing Programs Dr. Jana Causey. “Not only are we experiencing shortages in almost every healthcare category but pay has become very unstable making long term sustainability very difficult.”

At the Forrest County Campus, an LPN to RN bridge program has been added to allow students to work while completing their education. Additionally, the Radiology and Surgical Technology programs have been expanded.

“Our goal at PRCC is to provide the needed workforce to fill the gap in these shortages, as well as advocate for our students to receive the most competitive wages to keep them working locally in our community,” said Causey. “The addition of our new healthcare Simulation laboratory has been a game changer in our students’ education and we are committed to providing qualified, well-trained, and clinically prepared students to the healthcare workforce.”

CONTACTS FOR CTE PROGRAMS

Questions about the programs can be directed to the CTE office of the campus where they will attend. For PRCC’s Forrest County Campus, call 601-554-5539, email jcollum@prcc.edu or visit the FCC on U.S. 49 South. Hancock Campus can be reached at 228-252-7000. The Poplarville Campus can be reached at 601-403-1101. **RRR**





Have you heard? Our Wildcat Kids Club is growing! The Wildcat Kids Club is dedicated to establishing relationships and connections with the youth that surround Pearl River Community College! We have so many opportunities for our young community to be involved on campus, and we want to help your little one grow into the Wildcat of their dreams.

If you have not already, sign up by filling out our application here:

www.prccathletics.com/Wildcat_Kids_Club/Wildcat_Kids_Club_Application



THE WILDCAT WAY SHOW WITH MCKINSY HARRIS

This month's Wildcat Way Show, with host McKinsy Harris, will be featuring Katherine Dedeaux, the Coordinator of our Early Childhood program at PRCC. This episode will focus mainly on the youth that surround PRCC and the recently established Resource and Referral Program. This program works with educators, families and community partners of Poplarville to provide resources and high quality educational

opportunities to young children. Harris will also be sitting down with our Miss PRCC, Hannah Smith, to discuss how she attained the crown and her future goals as Miss PRCC.

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



The Office of Recruitment has been happy to host prospective Wildcats on all PRCC campuses for scheduled group tours, school field trips, CTE & Allied Health events, class visits, and private "Legacy" tours over this last month. Right now, Recruitment is busy planning the annual event, The Wildcat Experience 2022! Scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, The Wildcat Experience is a FREE event allowing future Wildcats the opportunity to get first-hand experience of life at The River. Throughout the day, prospective students will see the Wildcat Way of living your life with Pride,

Respect, Class, & Character up-close and personal, attain valuable information regarding the enrollment process, meet future instructors and classmates, and have the opportunity to attend our home baseball game against Hinds that afternoon as well as the PRCC Wind Ensemble Concert Band performance that evening.

"The Wildcat Experience is a free and fun, come-and-go event to allow potential Wildcats an opportunity to speak one-on-one to each department and service center PRCC has to offer," 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.

High school seniors interested in PRCC are invited to get first-hand experience of life at The River. This FREE event will be held from 1 – 3 p.m. on The Green of the Centennial Courtyard on the Poplarville Campus. Attendees can meet with staff members from key departments involved with the enrollment process including Admissions, Housing, and ROAR, speak with Department Heads from STEM, Humanities, Dual Enrollment, Athletics, and Fine Arts, as well as get more information about scholarship opportunities through The Alumni Foundation, tutoring availability through TRIO, and work-study opportunities with Financial Aid.

"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." **RRR**

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST



On Feb. 7, students, staff and local legislators gathered together at the Forrest County Campus for the annual Legislative Breakfast. Dr. Adam Breerwood shared facility updates for across the campuses. Dr. Jana Causey spoke about new programs. Tobias Adams and Samantha Ranger shared their experiences as PRCC students.

Additionally, FCC students spoke with the legislators in attendance. PRCC is thankful to the local and state legislators who have helped to fund projects that continue providing a great education for our students.

RRR



Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID

April 7 & 8 • 7PM
April 9 • 2PM

Balcony \$17
Orchestra \$22

BROWNSTONE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

PRCC CELEBRATED BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH VISIT FROM GRAMMY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Students, staff, and community members gathered at the Brownstone Center of the Arts in February for an extraordinary evening of history and music.

Dr. Jeffrey Murdock, who was the 2021 GRAMMY Educator of the Year, presented “A Journey Through Black Music” featuring both lecture and musical examples performed with him playing piano and singing.

His presentation was an incredible example of the power Black History Month programming can have. The first portion of the evening had Murdock speaking about different time periods of Black music in American history. The second half had dozens of young men and women join him on the stage.

“Music has always been a part of the Black experience and the American Experience,” said Murdock. “I will take it a step further in saying the American music experience is inextricably linked to the Black experience.”

The journey through time started with the spirituals sung by slaves in the fields. Songs such as “Swing Lo, Sweet Chariot” and “Go Down, Moses” that seemed religious to the slave masters, but really contained coded messages for the Underground Railroad.

The audience was then taken through a jump in time post slavery to the Harlem Renaissance, the growth of artistic output centered in Harlem, N.Y. between the end of World War I and the mid-1930s. Some of the work of the musicians and poets was taken and used without credit while others

remained as it was unique to the plight they faced.

Sometimes the songs tackled uncomfortable topics such as the 1950s Billie Holiday piece, “Strange Fruit.”

The Black Church was discussed as it served as a place of refuge for the community. Each church has its own approach to the music, often putting their own spin on the same songs. They always contained the overarching theme of Christ’s love.

“It was a place where you could find comfort in a place where you could find fullness of joy,” said Murdock. “But a time came when the music had to leave the church.”

Songs like “Turn Me Around” and “We Who Believe in Freedom” were sung when calling attention to civil rights. Instead of covert messages, the songs were more overt in their messaging.

Yet, joy remained in Black music with songs like “Superstition” by Stevie Wonder released in the early 1970s. And songs like “Glory” and “A Change Is Gonna Come” are songs sung in the name of continued pursuit of equality.

GOSPEL MUSIC IMMERSION

After his official presentation, Murdock was joined on stage by the PRCC Singers and the East Marion Gospel Choir. The students spent several hours that day preparing for the event and gave amazing performances.

“Having an opportunity to perform with Dr.



Murdock was a life-changing experience for the singers of the East Marion Gospel,” said Gary McCullum, director of the East Marion Gospel Choir. “His notes on singing authentic African American songs has enlightened us to reach new heights in our expressive musical approach.”

At times, Murdock encouraged the audience to “join the choir” with many enthusiastically belting out the lyrics taught in a call and response style. This included the initial piece, “Just Want to Praise You Forever.”

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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

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.

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Pieces by Richard Smallwood with a more classical feel for the piano accompaniment that were sung included “His Mercy Endureth Forever” and “Total Praise.” “All in His Hands” and “Goin’ up Yonder” were among the other selections for the evening.

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**

THE VOICES PERFORM AT PRESTIGIOUS SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Voices performed at the American Choral Directors Association’s Southern Region Conference, Feb. 23-26 in Raleigh, N.C. The ACDA is the premier professional organization for choral directors in the United States. ACDA holds biennial national and regional conferences. Mississippi falls under the Southern Region of the organization. Performing choirs are a highlight of the event, featuring the best of performance and repertoire from across the region.

“Singing at an ACDA conference is a prestigious honor and we are so excited for this opportunity,” said Dr. LaDonna Tyson, who serves as the Director of Choral Groups at PRCC and is the President-elect, Mississippi ACDA.

The Voices sang two concerts on February 24 at the Fletcher Opera Theater, which is a part of the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

The group also participated in a “Mississippi

Concert” at First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh with the Southern Chorale from USM and Concert Singers from The University of Mississippi.

The Voices perform an average of 25 concerts each year and each member of The Voices receives a ¼ tuition service award. The mission of The Voices is to demonstrate the Wildcat Way — Pride, Respect, Class, and Character — through meaningful performance and student leadership. **RRR**





TWICE AS NICE: PRCC BASKETBALL CLAIMS 2 MACCC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Magic at The River ran deep this basketball season as both the men's and women's basketball teams won MACCC Championships. For the men, who finished the regular season a perfect 14-0, it was Coach Chris Oney's third straight and fourth in five years. The golden ball is just a continuation of Oney's dominance against his MACCC peers as the Wildcats are a remarkable 50-3 against league foes since the 2018-19 season.

For the PRCC women, the title was a little longer in the making as it was their first since 1994. The women finished 12-2.

"I didn't tell the girls until our shootaround that we had a chance to make history tonight because I didn't want them to feel pressured," PRCC women's coach Scotty Fletcher said. "From where we were seven years ago to be able to be conference champions speaks volumes about the girls and assistant coaches. I've been extremely blessed with great players who have been bought in since they got here.

"We get the chance to hang a banner, get a gold ball and put a ring on our finger. That's incredible and to celebrate it with these awesome girls means a lot."

One of the highlights of the women's season was a 72-60 victory over rival Jones College. In the win, Tristen Washington and Kes-

hanti Nichols each scored 15 points, while Marcavia Shavers wasn't far behind with 12.

TOURNAMENT TIME

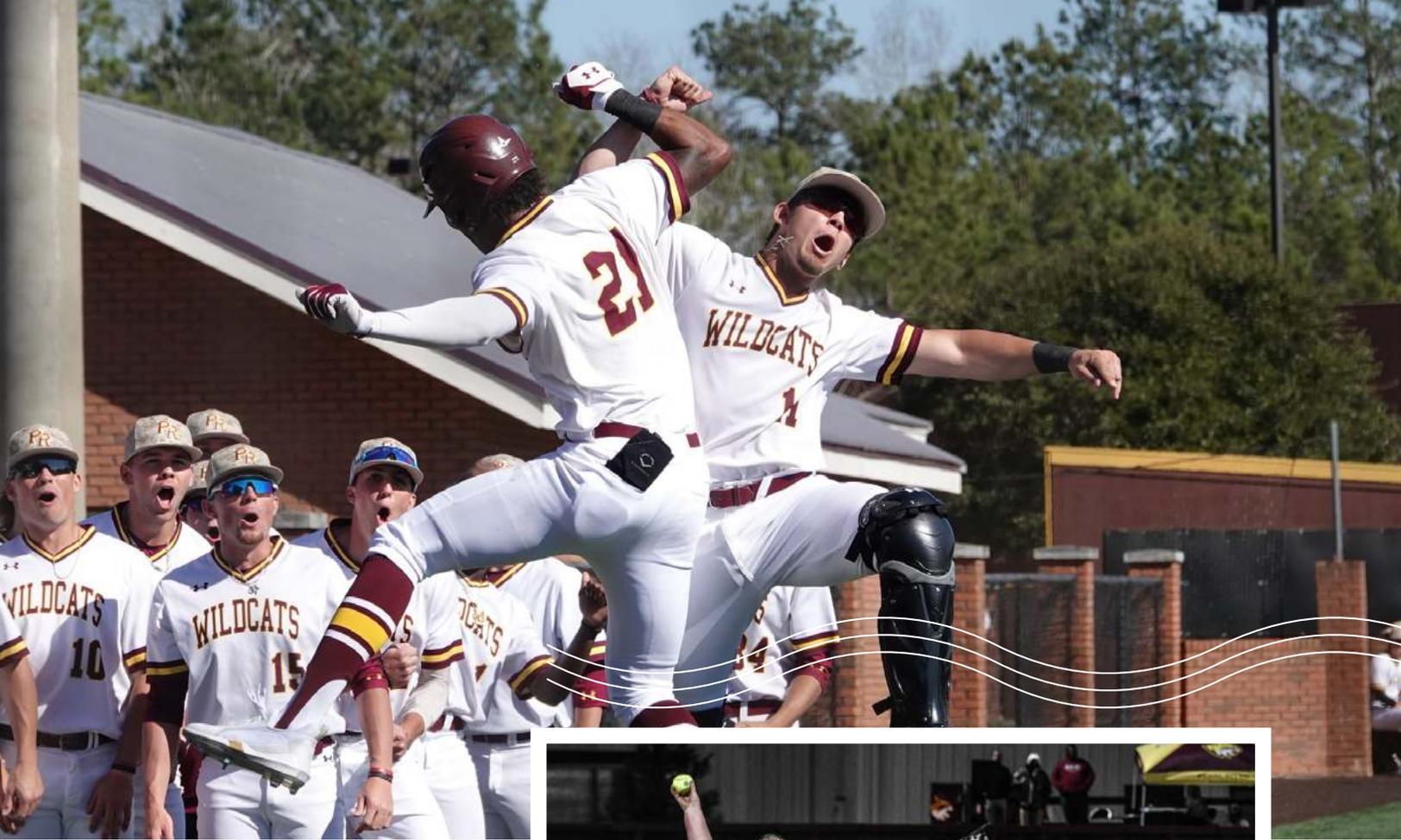
Hundreds filled Marvin R. White Coliseum and thousands more tuned in via PRCC-Media.com as Pearl River and Poplarville played host to the MACCC Tournament; this season the host was determined by the men's regular season champion. Although the women fell in the opener and the men made it to the second round after smashing JC 78-62, the tournament helped show why Pearl River fans give the Coliseum one of the best atmospheres in the state. From the pep band, cheer and String of Pearls performances, to a raucous student section and loud crowd, the Coliseum was the place to be Feb. 21-24. Jones College and East Mississippi ultimately earned the women's and men's tournament titles, respectively.

WHAT'S NEXT

Now that the MACCC Tournament is in the rearview mirror, both Wildcat teams are turning their attention to the Region 23 Tournament. After the first several rounds, the tournament moves to its annual host site at Mississippi College in Clinton. The winners of the tournament automatically qualify for the NJCAA Tournament. The PRCC men have won two Region 23 titles under Oney's guidance. **RRR**

Among the changes the MACCC's athletic directors and presidents approved this summer was a restructuring of the league's basketball schedule and championships. The MACCC ditched the divisional play format for a true state-wide, 14-game schedule, with the regular season champion being crowned MACCC Champion; the postseason champ earned the right to be called MACCC Tournament Champion.





BASEBALL OFF TO STRONG START IN '22

The Pearl River baseball team is off to a strong start to the 2022 season. The Wildcats entered the year ranked fourth in the NJCAA and quickly won their first seven games in decisive fashion, including a lopsided 19-8 win over rival Jones College in Decatur. Through their first six games the Wildcats had already hit 15 homers which was one behind the nation's leader who had already played 12 games. Wildcat fans at The Dub can also enjoy the new videoboard, which was installed prior to the season opener.

SOFTBALL RANKED NO. 17 IN PRESEASON

Coach Christie Meeks' softball team entered the year ranked No. 17 in the nation. Despite playing the majority of the first month on the road, PRCC opened the season with a 6-5 record. The first month of the season was highlighted by the arrival of Louisiana-Lafayette transfer Brinson Rogers. The right-hander struck out a PRCC record 16 in a 1-0 win over Lamar State-Port Arthur. PRCC's Wildcat Stadium is currently undergoing a massive renovation. **RRR**



FOOTBALL ANNOUNCES NEW SPRING GAME FORMAT

Wildcat fans are going to be afforded a rare opportunity to check out Pearl River's future while also reminiscing about the program's glory days. Head coach Seth Smith has announced the 2022 Maroon & Gold Spring Game is receiving a major overhaul.

The game is set for noon April 15 so fans can spend the day on PRCC's Poplarville campus, taking in the spring game before heading to Dub Herring Park for the Wildcats' 2 p.m. doubleheader against Itawamba.

Pearl River Hall of Famers and All-America selections John Feaster and Jimmy Oliver will serve as captains of the Maroon and Gold teams respectively. Additionally, former Wildcat standout Craig Franklin, who played at PRCC in 1971 and '72, will be a captain for the coin toss.

As if a day of football and baseball wasn't enough incentive for Wildcat fans to come out to PRCC, the football program is also going to boil crawfish and grill burgers. The football scrimmage is free to the public. **RRR**

Spotlights!



SHARON CLARK
INSTRUCTOR OF MATHEMATICS
FORREST COUNTY CAMPUS

Sharon earned her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Education from the University of Southern Mississippi, a Master of Science in Mathematics from University of Louisiana Lafayette, and post graduate studies in education at University of New Orleans.

Outside of the classroom, she enjoys traveling, reading, crocheting and cross stitching.



MISSY BABIOWSKI
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT &
DATA ENTRY CLERK
POPLARVILLE CAMPUS

Missy lives in Poplarville with her husband, Chuck, and her sons, Jonathan and Braden. She graduated from Poplarville High School and attended PRCC to obtain her ADN.

When not working, she enjoys almost anything that is done outdoors including camping, gardening, watching her son play baseball. She also enjoys cooking.

“I love working at Pearl River Community College. The camaraderie between all the employees is like no other place I have worked. It truly feels like ‘family.’ I love to help students and the faculty, and I get great satisfaction in knowing that I hopefully have make a happy, positive difference in someone’s day.”



NOAH TAYLOR
STUDENT, FORREST COUNTY CAMPUS
STEM PATHWAY

Noah is a Collins resident and graduate of Presbyterian Christian School. He is a member of the Honors Institute, Mu Alpha Theta (math honor society), Phi Theta Kappa, and the Science Club. He likes attending PRCC for the smaller campus and class sizes and finds it a great place to make the transition from high school to college.

“I am glad I chose PRCC to make the transition from high school instead of going straight to a four-year school. The instructors take time to talk with you and get to know their students. This is especially true with the Honors Institute which has been my favorite part of attending so far.”

New Hires!

February 2022

Antwynne James	Police Officer
Darrell Kinchen	Maintenance (Electrician)
Elizabeth Nicole Lumpkin	Custodian
Connor Wheat	Grounds

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.

DID YOU KNOW?



Front row (left to right): Candace Lindsley of Hattiesburg, Idus Arcement of Picayune, Alison Pigott (captain) of Picayune, Roxanne Fletcher of Waveland and Ashley Foster of Bay St. Louis.
Middle row (left to right): Leigh Ann Smith of Picayune, Brooke Burge of Poplarville, Leslie Lee of Picayune, Jodi Tate of Picayune and Candace Mooney of Carriere.
Back row (left to right): Jessica Melville of Bay St. Louis, Lindsey Miller of Picayune, Mandy Landry of Picayune, Natalie Woods of Picayune and Danielle Wheat of Picayune.

February marked 20 years since PRCC's String of Pearls dance team won its **FIRST** National Championship.

Pearl River Community College's Spring 2002 String of Pearls won the college division in the 2002 United States Dance/Drill Team Championships held at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla. The Pearls won both categories in jazz and pom-poms.

"We scored superior in all categories. This was a really great accomplishment for our

program and for the school. We received some great exposure from this competition. These girls brought the level of performance to national standards. What this performance does is show people that we can compete on the national level. And that should help us to attract good dancers for our program," said director Archie Rawls, Fine Arts chairman at PRCC. **RRR**

2022 HUMANITIES INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR



Heather Peerboom, an instructor of English at the Forrest County Campus, has been selected as Pearl River Community College's Humanities Teacher of the Year. The award is funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council and includes recognition at the Mississippi Humanities Council's 2022 Public Awards Ceremony on March 25.

Peerboom presented "Health and Social Wellbeing: The Benefits of Book Reading" on Tuesday, Feb. 1 on the Forrest County Campus. The lecture was part of the William Lewis Honors Institute Forrest County Center Honors Lecture. **RRR**



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