Roses are red, school colors aren't blue. IF you're graduating this summer I say Congratulations to you! I want to say you did it. Your race is over, or you lap is complete to whatever you’re doing. Don’t give up in defeat. I love the fact that your day is coming, when you can look back and say it was worth it. The late nights of being up till 3 in the morning. Worst case, going to your 8am with no sleep at all because you’re pushing yourself. Congratulations to you for forming that small study group with your classmates to pass the class together with a C or higher. I can say it for those who wish they could tell each and everyone of you, that you really do deserve this moment. When you were banging your head against the wall thinking you wouldn’t make this moment you did. Now, play your favorite graduation song, what ever song makes you happy and positive vibes only and keep it moving. May life be better and get well for you, and push you one step closer to your ultimate goal in life. Congratulations class of 2017!! You truly did do it.

The 2017 National Football League (NFL) draft took place between April 27th and 29th this year. The draft took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, or to some, the place where “Rocky” was filmed.

The two drafts prior were held in Chicago, Illinois at the Auditorium Theatre. The Chicago Bears had the number 3 overall pick going into the draft, after a 3 win-13 loss season, the worse record for the team since the NFL moved to 16 games in 1978. The Chicago Bears shocked the sports world by trading two 3rd round picks and a 4th round pick, as well as their 3rd overall pick to move up one spot. The Bears selected North Carolina quarterback Mitch Trubisky, which, in my opinion was a bad pick. He gave the pick a “D-” grade on his national TV show, Skip and Shannon Undisputed, and stated that he could see Trubisky as a fifth round pick. To make the situation worse, the Bears already overpaid another Quarterback in the offseason. Mike Glennon was given a 3 year, 45 million dollar contract, a hefty price for a quarterback who hasn’t started a season opener since 2014. The Chicago Tribune writer Dan Wiederer wrote, “Call it a bold move. Call it insanity” about the Bears pick. The Bears already overpaid another Quarterback in the offseason. Mike Glennon was given a 3 year, 45 million dollar contract, a hefty price for a quarterback who hasn’t started a season opener since 2014. The Chicago Tribune writer Dan Wiederer wrote, “Call it a bold move. Call it insanity” about the Bears pick. The Bears other picks included Round 2, No. 45: Adam Shaheen, TE, from Ashland, Round 4, No. 112: Eddie Jackson, S, from Alabama, Round 4, No. 119: Tarik Cohen, RB, from North Carolina A&T, and Round 5, No. 147: Jordan Morgan, OL, from Kutztown. The Bears other picks were risky as well in my opinion. Only 2 players chosen in the Chicago Bears 2017 draft were from division 1 college football programs, the majority of the Bears picks were from division 2 colleges. The Bears 2nd overall pick was booed at the United Center when a photo was shown from the NFL draft at the Chicago Bulls playoff game April 26th. The culture in Chicago needs to the Change. The Bears General Manager Ryan Pace, who selected Trubisky, has 9 wins and 23 loses over the past two seasons. This has left thousands of seats empty at Soldier Field during home games. I am happy the bears released Jay Cutler, however, The Bears need to clean house. The Bears GM who selected him is 9-23 over the past season Bears Draft?

Photo Courtesy of Sports Mockery

Ramon Morgan Staff Reporter

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The 8th installment for the 4th weekend in a row, grossing more than 1 Billion dollars worldwide! The world has gotten used to the high-intensity action filmmaking that Fast and Furious has been known for, but this time around, Vin Diesel and company kept up the same level of intensity. The 8th installment, also known as Fast and Furious 8: As Fast and Furious as Ever, is a continuation of the franchise that has been around for over 20 years. The story takes place in the aftermath of the previous installment, where Dom Toretto and his team were forced to confront their greatest enemy: the immortal grey man. In the new installment, Dom and his crew are faced with a new threat in the form of a mysterious organization known as the Black Market. The group has developed a new technology that can control cars, and Dom and his team must stop them before it's too late.

Like talking about current events? How about attending activities on the community? Are you looking for a fun activity that could potentially turn into a lucrative career? Like being in on what's happening on campus?

If this sounds like you, how about putting those thoughts to good use? Email us at thepioneer@prairiestate.edu if you are interested in becoming one of the reporters for The Pioneer!
Graduates Reflect:

The End of the Journey at PSC

PSC: A Stepping Stone to My Next Chapter

I have been at Prairie State College for 3 years now. I have been on the newspaper for all of that time. I went from being Copy editor, to Editor in Chief, to Layout Editor and have been a staff writer a real job now. The new changes to the paper came with new responsibilities for us all, and it made us a lot more independent and less nervous for us to give speeches to the class. He made us all better public speakers. While here at PSC, I have also learned a lot from working on this team for so long. I’ve really enjoyed getting to work on the paper. My focus has shifted from words to graphics throughout this time.

When I started at Prairie State, I originally planned to major in English. I took many literature classes and did the editing for the paper. But as time went on, I realized that English wasn’t my main goal in life. When I became editor in chief, I still did a lot of copy editing, but when my layout editor graduated, I took over layout. I had already had experience with layout in high school because I worked on the yearbook staff for a few years. I really feel like I excel most as someone who works with graphics. Now I have been layout editor for a year and a half; it’s great. I hope to better my skills with graphics as I go on in my next school.

The next school I’m going to is Trinity Christian College. I have been accepted and plan to move in and attend in the fall of this year. I still have 2 classes to finish up at Prairie State, but I intend to finish them and move on. It just seems like it’s time to move on to another place. I will be bringing in graphic design and hope to find my place there.

I will miss Prairie State and all it has to offer, but I’m excited to start a new chapter of my life. I can’t wait to meet new people and have new experiences. Prairie State will always have a special place in my heart as well. I will miss Prairie State and all it has to offer, but I’m excited to be starting a new chapter of my life. I can’t wait to meet new people and have new experiences. Prairie State will always have a special place in my heart as well.

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PSC: An Aspiring Journalist’s Journey

I’ve been writing for the Prairie State College newspaper for 3 years. I started as a staff writer for The Student Review, the volunteer based student news, club, and I have written for the past two semesters under The Pioneer, the professional and independently run student news outlet. As I’ve written for the college, I’ve watched the paper change hands between three different, but talented editors; Annalise Avery, Joseph Dorsey, both of The Student Review, and lastly The Pioneer, Editor in Chief, Ebony Hampton.

After the change from The Student Review to The Pioneer, I appreciated the paychecks and being able to call being a staff writer a real job now. The new changes to the paper came with new responsibilities for us all, and it made us a lot more independent, goal oriented, and focused writers. However, I missed the weekly meetings that we used to have when the school newspaper was The Student Review and considered a school club, as it was sometimes like a mini-party.

After 4 years of being a student at Prairie State, I will be graduating this semester. I’m very thankful for professors De La Fuente, Hammond and Greene. I’ve taken all three of Professor De La Fuente’s Sociology classes – Sociology 101, Sex, Gender, and Power, and Marriage and Family. I highly recommend them for anyone that needs additional college credits. Professor Da Le Fuente has a passion for sociology, and she has helped me discover my own passion for sociology. Professor Green did an amazing job of creating a community within his Communications 101 class – and this made it less nervous for us to give speeches to the class. He made us all better public speakers. While here at PSC, I also took Professor Hammond’s Ethics class, and his Reason, Myth, and God class. He’s a tough but fair teacher. Professor Hammond’s classes opened doors to free thought in my opinion, that’s what higher education is all about. My time at Prairie State was relatively short but significant. I’ll be sad to leave and say goodbye to everyone.

Nonetheless, I look forward to a future of possibility and I’ll be transferring to Governors State University in the fall.

From Engineering to Poly-Sci; Discovering Myself at PSC

Prairie State College has changed my life in so many ways.

I never imagined college to be the place where I’d grow so much. I imagined that change within in a person would take decades, not 2 years. I came into PSC a rigid, unsure mechanical engineering major. Being a family tradition, of course that’s what I chose to major in, especially since I love science and figuring out how everything works at its core. My entire family works with their hands, or works in a lab. However, I would soon realize that science was not my calling, which was a bittersweet realization thanks to Professor Andy Schott. I owe much of who I’ve become over the past few years to his persistence with becoming involved with Model Illinois Government or MIG for short. I was extremely hesitant, but the Professor knew somehow that eventually, I would break, and you bet I’m overjoyed that I did.

The Model Illinois Government organization literally changed my life. It’s one of those things where after just a taste of it, you realize that this is where you belong; this is your true love, and this is what you’re meant to do. Now politics is the foundation, and pinnacle of every aspect of life, and at a certain point in everyone’s life it’s a realization that politics is involved in everything we do in life. This can be a great thing, and unfortunately, it can be corrupted. I realized that it doesn’t have to get so nasty, and with the guidance of the PSC faculty and the diversity of my peers, starting near here will take me so far indeed.

I had the honor of becoming student trustee in order to help my peers in as many ways and as much as possible, and I was ecstatic to be appointed as the parliamentary of the student government association. I’m able to be myself, and am a much happier person because I found my purpose at PSC, and am able to do what I love thanks to the outstanding support of the PSC Foundation and administration. I’m going to shed tears of bittersweet joy when I leave here.
A Letter from the Editor in Chief:

To My Staff:
It has been a pleasure working with you all this year. I can’t believe how fast the time has gone! I appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to The Pioneer. This year has been challenging for us as we ushered in a new era for the school paper. You’ve held on with me as we made the change from a hardcopy newspaper under our former name, The Student Review, to us being completely online and having new roles. I appreciate every single last one of you, and those that have come and gone. I couldn’t have done this without you: my reporters, and my friends. Thank you for the memories, the laughs, the struggles and the discoveries. We did it! I am ready to keep this ball rolling in the fall and finish what we started: giving Prairie State College a professional news outlet that adheres to its values and standards, all while using our own voices to advocate for things that matter to the students and the surrounding communities. I hope you are ready to initiate the next phase in our journey here at PSC.

To My Graduates:
I am going to miss you guys! It has been wonderful getting to know you all and being not only your Editor in Chief, but your friend. This road has been rocky, and I know some of you do not wish to leave the legacy you helped to create, but rest assured, you will always find a home here. Your stories will go on in your absence, and others will learn from the examples you have set. You may be graduating, but a piece of you will always remain here. Annaliese, Eduardo, Nicholas, and Kyle: You all have done excellent work here at PSC; and although I hate to see you leave, I know you are moving on to spread your knowledge, kindness, cheer, and leadership skills in other places. The world needs more people like you all, and by moving forward, you will take your talents with you everywhere you go. Thank you for choosing to work with us here at The Pioneer. You will truly be missed. Congratulations and take care.

From the Editor’s Desk:
Greetings Readers!
This new academic semester brought about so many new changes!

We have completed our first part of changes with our news publication The Pioneer, but we still have a bit more we will be unveiling in the upcoming semesters. Thank you for your time and patience, but most of all, thank you for supporting us during this time. I look forward to coming back and bringing you all the news in Fall 2017!

I have been honored to be your Editor in Chief and can’t wait to bring you all more surprises, this may be the end of the academic year, but The Pioneer is just getting started! Have a safe and wonderful summer. You’ll be seeing us again real soon.

If you want to join us as a reporter in the fall send us an email with your name, student I.D number, and a brief description on what interests you about journalism.

During the break, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please email us at thepioneer@prairiestate.edu!

Thanks for sticking with us!

Ebony Hampton
Editor in Chief

STAFF:

Editor-In-Chief:
Ebony Hampton

Layout Editor:
Annaliese Avery

Staff Reporters:
Eduardo Lopez
Avery Manuel
Ramon Morgan
Nick Ulanowski

Guest Writers:
Kyle Brodnick

Staff Photographer:
Tamar Clark

Vision Statement
To be recognized as Prairie State College’s leading and most trusted media network, reaching not only our home campus, but through our neighboring communities as well.

Mission Statement
The mission of the Prairie State College Pioneer is to be the most precise, most wide-ranging and most thought-provoking source of news, sports, and entertainment for the PSC campus community. The core values that the Editorial Staff and the Reporters of the Pioneer should operate on are:

- To react quickly to any newsworthy events, whether on campus, around the community, in the state, or in another part of the world if we believe that the news would impact our readers.
- To actively seek content that will interest and inspire readers, provide quality entertainment, provoke thoughtful discussion, and advance the reader’s knowledge.
- To create a platform that is a direct reflection of the diversity and uniqueness of the backgrounds, goals, needs, and interests of the readers.
- To consistently hold the ethical guidelines of The Pioneer and Prairie State College in high regard and to cultivate the most professional atmosphere at times, whether in office or on location.
- To develop professional and successful student journalists that will be able to use the skills gained working on The Pioneer and studying at Prairie State College in every aspect of life.

Ebony Hampton, Editor in Chief
Annaliese Avery, Layout Editor

Ebony Hampton (EIC), Eduardo Lopez, Avery Manuel (not pictured: Tamar Clark, Anthony Miller)

Staff from Left to Right: Ebony Hampton (EIC), Eduardo Lopez, Avery Manuel (not pictured: Tamar Clark, Anthony Miller)