Veterans During the Holiday Season: Prairie State Gives Back

By: Domineque Preer

The college President, Dr. Terri Winfree began the program with a heartfelt welcome to the event, showcasing Pioneer Spirit. The event had many memorable moments, including lots of laughter and a few tears. Each individual that was a part of the nursing program had the same look of happiness and determination that crosses the face of students each day while on campus. The manner in which the members of the nursing program carried themselves gave outsiders the truth about each individual, as they glowed with pride. They all wanted to become a nurse all for the right reasons: to help those that might not be able to help themselves, to cultivate relationships in the community, and overall, to give back. Some of the previous and current students also gave words of wisdom to those looking to start the application process to enter into PSC’s nursing program.

When asked about what it takes to make it, and what advice should new students have when it comes to the curriculum, Alondra Morfin had the perfect response for any college student. “Don’t put off your studying and leave it until the end. At some point you have to give up your personal life and weekends, because you will want to study so you can be successful in the program”. This is true not only for the nursing program but engineering student to mechanic or any other career choice. If you want to be the best you will have to sacrifice and study to hone your skills.

Over the course of the month, the college has hosted many other events to share their support to military Veterans. These events included screenings of “The Invisible War,” a veteran night hosted by the PSC Athletic Department during the Men’s and Women’s Basketball games, and a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Forum, which was led by faculty. PSC also erected A Missing Man Table which is displayed in the atrium. The purpose is to honor missing comrades in arms. The empty table will be left up for the remainder of the month. The table is to represent the five services: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

Currently, PSC is conducting its seventh annual supply collection for the male and female veterans living at the Manteno Veterans Home, which will last through Dec. 15. All donations for this drive can be dropped off in the Student Veterans Center. The home needs t-shirts, underwear, socks, toothbrushes, tubes of toothpaste and other toiletry items. These are the desperately needed items that the veterans are not supplied by the Veterans Administration. If the veteran does not have family that brings these items, they are forced to do without or recycle what they have. The men and women that dedicated their lives defending this country need your help.

This holiday season, please support local vets and donate!
Reflections from a Veteran

This institution has done great things for many. It was almost unexpected when I first walked into the school. This is for us? A place to call a quiet study. A place to gather and further our comradesry amongst the branches we’ve been a part of. The general population of veterans like myself and many others don’t particularly care to be recognized, or given things. We’re a humble bunch. But Prairie State College and their center for veterans have given us more than we could ever ask for. When the semester hits hard, the space given to expand and decompress with a fresh brewed cup of coffee is more than I could ever ask for. I speak for my brothers and sisters in arms when I say that we are more than grateful for such a place to call home here at Prairie State. The experience a veteran encounters here is meant to be a constant so that those returning home can transition smoothly, and be with those who share the same mindset, and guide one another. From the faculty all the way down to the support staff and students with military family, to the ceremonies that are dedicated to past wartime vets, and welcoming ceremonies for those transitioning from active duty to civilian life… So much appreciation is shown and we couldn’t be more humbled- even with the services offered for early registration, it is a gesture of kindness and appreciation, unlike anywhere else. From all of us at the Veterans Center, we salute you.
What’s in Store for the Holidays

ANNALEISE AVERY
LAYOUT EDITOR

Around this time of year, everyone is looking for great gifts to buy their relatives and friends, but college students don’t always have the extra cash to spend. Luckily, many stores have great deals going on during the holiday season.

Walmart has deals going on, as usual. They have gift guides for different price ranges and different recipients. Customers can go online to find these lists. Also, they have a weekly sale with current discounts. Some ideas for gifts from Walmart are beauty sets including hair, makeup, and bath products, clothes, and electronics. They have some great prices.

Another place to get great deals is Target. Things can be a little pricey here, but they have sales all throughout the store and weekly sale ads. They also have some good prices in the bargain bins at the front of the stores. Customers can find great deals in these bins such as candles, reed diffusers and winter wear such as hats and gloves.

Walgreens is also another place for cheap holiday gifts. They have cosmetic gift sets and a large selection of chocolate and candy for the holidays. Their cosmetic sets include hair, make up and skincare and are great gifts for women. They also have toys and gifts for children.

For customers looking to meet other winter needs, Old Navy is a great place to shop. They have a lot of inexpensive winter clothes such as sweaters, socks and scarves. They also have coats, hats, and gloves for great prices.

Black Friday is also a great option to get anything for a great price. Stores open up anywhere from 9 PM thanksgiving night to 7AM Friday morning. Customers can get everything on their list if they go to the right stores early enough in the day. But if stampedes of people and waking up early is too stressful, customers can wait until Cyber Monday to order a plethora of inexpensive gifts. Many stores have great prices on all of their items and there is no stress involved.

All of these are great options for buying holiday gifts, but even if students can’t afford these options, a hug and a smile is a great gift for anyone this holiday season. Happy shopping PSC!

Photo Credit: Minnesota Monthly

To Celebrate or not to Celebrate?

AVERY MANUEL
STAFF WRITER

It is just about the beginning of the holidays, but there are some students at Prairie State don’t celebrate because of their religion. After interviewing a few students about how they plan on spending their holidays, most celebrate with friends and family, but others treat the break like a normal set of days. Dary Vielman, a student here who is Guatemalan, has a different religion that forbids him from celebrating holidays at all. For her, it is just another day. When he was a kid he didn’t understand the hype of holidays much until he grew up. There was nothing special for Christmas or his birthday. Although He grew up watching TV shows where it was common to receive gifts, for him it wasn’t and he learned to be okay with it. Some people were more excited about Thanksgiving than Christmas, but a majority of them hold out for present day.

Even so, Thanksgiving is an important part of the American culture. Around this time of year, thankfulness is very important. Students at Prairie State answered the thankfulness question before the Holiday weekend. One student said, “I’m thankful for my family and them all being alive.” Another said “I’m thankful that my GPA is much higher than it was last semester.” Then there was one the answer that brought me literally to tears. A pregnant woman got into a horrific car accident and they had to deliver the baby that same day. She survived along with the beautiful baby boy. She was able to spend Christmas with a healthy baby who is now at home and gets to see his whole family. The story is really a heartwarming start to the holiday season.

A College Student’s Guide to the Holidays

LANAYA BOYD
STAFF WRITER

The holiday season is upon us and I know it can drive you crazy! But what do you do with all that pent up college student angst that you endure on a day to day basis? Do you put your head between your knees and fall victim to the pressure or do you rise above it? Do you know what to do to get out of that rut? Check out these five tips to get yourself free of that Grinch called HOLIDAY STRESS!

5 STRESS RELIEF TIPS:

GET REST! I know when we are busy all the time it is so easy to forget that it is actually not good to be busy all the time. Your body and your mind need time to recover! Rest is important and not sleeping enough can cause stress, not to mention premature wrinkles!

WRITE IT OUT! Now a days it can be hard to find someone you can trust to vent to. Writing how you feel on sheet of paper can relief stress in the most non-threatening to your health and beauty possible. Plus it doesn’t talk back.

ZONE OUT! Go out and grab some new headphones that are loud, (The PSC Bookstore has tons!) and find some new artists and new songs to blast and listen to music. This tip always helps for me as I never go anywhere without my headphones!

GO WORKOUT! Even if you are not a big of it go for a walk outside around the block a few times. Sometimes when your angry walking around outside can help you cool off and help gather your thoughts and get your mind back right. If nature isn’t your thing, check out the cost of local gym memberships. Xport fitness in Matteson has memberships for only $10 a month and they are open 24hrs! Perfect for you night owls and that college budget.

TRY SOMETHING NEW! Whether if it’s trying new food, trying a different hairstyle, trying different makeup, or playing a new game. Sometimes when we try new things it can bring joy because you have never done it before!

Finals and stress go hand in hand, but we can reduce that stress with proper preparation. No more all-night-ers the night before those exams

5 FINALS STUDY TIPS:

TAKE A BREAK! Yeah, I know……That isn’t the first thing you want to hear when it comes to studying. Sometimes when we study we can overdo it to the point we become unable to retain the information we are studying and that is not good. So taking a break from your work is important, it be a 15 min break or a 1 hour. Just remember to come back to it.

DRINK UP! When you start to feel sleep and exhausted go drink some coffee, hot tea or have energy drink. Educate and Hydrate.

START A STUDY GROUP! You will be shocked when you find out people are struggling with the same things you are or how they don’t really like to be alone when studying. Sometimes having more people involved when studying can be a big help. More importantly, those flashcards you wrote get more use instead of collecting dust on your nightstand.

MAKE THE LIBRARY YOUR HOME! Now we’re not saying that you should be sleeping there, but you should find a good spot and crank up the tunes and get to it! Sometimes if you are like me it is very hard to study at home especially when have like 50 million things to do.

UTILIZE YOUR PROFESSORS OFFICE HOURS! Make plans with your professor to attend their office hours for extra help. Sometimes it’s stressful when we try to figure things out on our own. Attending office hours show your professor that you are serious about your grades and that you are willing to do what it takes to improve. Sitting in class confused and not asking for help or clarification can be problematic. If you are shy then making an appointment to see your professor during their office hours is the perfect thing for you.
Christmas Dinner: It Doesn't Have to be at Home to be Delicious!

Hope vs The Goat: The Cubs win the World Series

DOMINIQUE PREER  STAFF WRITER

I pledge allegiance to the Google results on how to make a honey ham and to Martha Stewart for these desserts, one nation under pressure, in a panic, with family, wrapping-paper paper cuts, and your aunt’s 4th drunk husband is about to fall. Yes, it is that time of year again; the Holiday season is upon us! By that we mean the dreaded kitchen destroying madness for those of us that can’t cook. That’s okay, we understand that everyone can’t be Martha Stewart and have a show with the legendary Snoop Dogg. So if you are anything like the standard demographic, you’re broke and in college. It is okay to admit that you can’t boil water, but sometimes these kinds of things make the holiday feast want you a little more difficult. Some people just don’t celebrate things like Thanksgiving or Christmas and want to have a nice couple of days off. In all of the holiday craziness, though, stores can end up cleaned out. So what’s for dinner? Well, look no further than the distance of these words from your face because The Pioneer has some suggestions! If you’re in the mood for a holiday dinner and treats without all of the holiday work, try stopping in:

The Egg & I (theeggandrestaurants.com) 222 Dixie Highway Chicago Heights, IL 60411 (708) 754-0900
Open 6:30 am to 2:30 pm

Culver’s (culvers.com) 17010 Torrence Ave. Lansing, IL 60438 (708) 895-5555
Open 10 am to 11 pm

IHOP (restaurants.ihop.com) 2430 173rd Street Lansing, IL 60438 (708) 474-2240
Open 6 am to 12 m

Boston Market (bostonmarket.com) 17855 S. Halsted Street Homewood, IL 60430 (708) 922-1200
Open 10:30 am to 10 pm

If you’re of age and would like to have some fun, or stop by after cleaning to drown your sorrows, we found some places serving alcohol on Thanksgiving.

Hooters (hooters.com) 17060 S Torrence Ave Lansing, IL 60412 (708) 889-0446
Open 11 am to 11 pm
Order online for carry out

Applebee’s (restaurants.applebees.com) 330 Ridge Rd. Munster, IN 46321 (219) 836-8222
Open 11 am to 12 pm
Lencioni’s Pub and Banquets (lencioniicatering.com)

Open 11 am to 12 pm

3325 Glenwood-Dyer rd. Lynwood, IL 60411 (708) 757-4304 for catering
call Jack Lencioni @ (708) 895-6844
Open 11 am to 12 pm

Outback Steakhouse (outback.com) 2005 River Oaks Dr. Calumet City, IL 60409 (708) 862-0220
Open 1 pm to 9:30 pm
Order and get on wait list online

The Tender Trap Sports Bar and Grill (wetsportsbarandgrillbar.com) 109 S Halsted Street Chicago Heights, IL 60411 (708) 755-1134
Open 11 am to 4 am
Smoking lounge open until 11 pm
Families welcome

If you have a larger family, you may want to take a look at these places with catering and banquet hall options.

The Warsaw Inn: European Buffet (angieswarsawinn.com)
1280 Glenwood-Dyer Rd. Lynwood, IL 60411 (708) 474-1000
Open 11 am to 4 pm
Carry out dinners
Make reservations online
Private parties
Catering

Boston Market
See above
Lencioni’s Pub and Grill
See above

No matter what you do, where you go, or who you see, be safe and be thankful this holiday season. Enjoy the mini-vacations and try eating somewhere new. Donate time or money to a charity you care about. Call a relative you miss. It doesn't matter how you celebrate as long as you do some good. Happy holidays from The Pioneer!

Photo Credit: USAtoday.com

In celebration in Grant Park, allowing fans to join in the celebration and party with their hometown heroes. The Chicago Cubs Parade was documented as the 7th largest gathering in human history, showing that the love of the team extended far beyond Wrigley Ville. The Cubs winning the World Series was the greatest sports moment for the city of Chicago for the 21st century.

RAMON MORGAN  STAFF WRITER

On November 2nd, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series against the Cleveland Indians. This win for the Cubs ended the longest championship drought in North American Sports History. It’s been 108 years since the cubs won the World Series, and this win came at a pivotal time in American history. The Cubs dominated the 2016 season not only as the Las Vegas betting favorite to win the Series, but as the team with the best record for Major League Baseball. The team was determined to break the curse of the Billy Goat, a Chicago legend that most die-hard fans believed to be true. The Curse of the Billy Goat was the standard explanation adopted by the fans and the media of why the Chicago Cubs have not won a National League pennant for decades. In this story the scapegoat, pun intended, was Bill Sianis. Sianis was the owner of the appropriately named Billy Goat’s Tavern. Sianis and his pet goat, were kicked out of Game 4 at the 1945 World Series after some other spectators complained about the goat’s odor. Sianis in his outrage cursed the Cubs, who did not return to the World Series until this year, a whopping 108 years later. Apparently, 52 years after the “curse” was supposedly laid, Bill’s son Sam (then owner of the tavern) and a new goat were brought in by the Cubs to rid them of the curse in 1997, but it was in vain.

2016 was meant to be a year of redemption and curse breaking, as the Cubs had their entire city in support, ready and waiting for a miracle. Although the Cubs started the 2016 World Series poorly, winning only one out of the first 4 games, their city still stood behind them patiently, with their fingers crossed and their eyes full of hope, making the team’s win even more important. The Cubs fought back and won the next 3 games in row to win the series final in game 7 with a score of 8-7. Game 7 went extra innings making it long and rough, as it has happened only 5 times in World Series History. The Cubs became the 6th team in Major League Baseball history to be at a disadvantage, come back and win. Being down 3-1 in a best of 7 World Series, the Cubs looked like they would once again face defeat. Game 7 was at its peak was watched by 40 million people, many on the edge of their seats. This was the most watched game 7 in the World Series since 1991, and for the right reasons as the cubs stole the show and won.

Following their epic victory over both the Indians and the curse, the city of Chicago honored the Cubs on Nov 4. After a massive parade that included about 40 busses, the Cubs then held a rally in celebration in Grant Park, allowing fans to join in the celebration and party with their hometown heroes. The Chicago Cubs Parade was documented as the 7th largest gathering in human history, showing that the love of the team extended far beyond Wrigley Ville. The Cubs winning the World Series was the greatest sports moment for the city of Chicago for the 21st century.
Tis’ the season to be jolly! It’s that time of year where we exchange gifts for the holidays. As a college student when the holidays come, that indicates to me the semester is over and I can now sleep in. We can all use the worry free sleep after finals!

But in don't rest up too much; you still have to think what you will ask for as a present. It might feel a little bit overwhelming, especially with all those awesome gadgets out on the market, but don’t worry I will help with this year’s hottest tech gear for college students on the go.

If you are a photographer and need to print out some photos but don’t have the means to do so, then this item is made for you: The HP Sprocket Portable Photo Printer is only $130, which is a good price for a portable photo printer, as most can run you over $300. This printer is pretty simple and straightforward. You connect to the printer using Bluetooth and install a free app to your phone or Bluetooth capable device that will get those photos printing in record time!

So this is a perfect gift for the Selfie-obsessed to the professional photog.

Maybe photography is not your thing, which is perfectly fine. Maybe you love to draw or don’t want to be carrying stacks and stacks of notebooks. If that’s the case, then the Wacom Bamboo Notepad is right up your alley and also available in stores and online for only $180. It uses regular paper that sends the recorded data instantaneously to your smartphone or tablet. Perfect for notes during class or recording that masterpiece you were scribbling on the cover of your notebook.

As students, our phones are always in our hands, whether it be for recording lectures, sending emails, texting, or browsing Facebook. I think we all can agree that when our cellphones die we feel like it is the end of the world. So why risk it when you can get Mophie PowerStation for around $50? This nifty gadget will extend your smartphone battery life for about 24 more hours and it doesn’t break the bank. Score!

Old habits die hard, and for some of us, that means gaming. The Nintendo NES Classic Edition that retails for $60 will be the hottest system this holiday season with every inner nerd trying to get their hands on this iconic console. It will have an updated HDMI port to play those classic 8-bit video games. The console will have 30 pre-installed games and no official way to add more. Bring on the Mario session!

Flash drives too small? Phone memory running out of space? Do you have an abundance on junk on your laptop or home computer? I have the solution for you! The WD My Passport Ultra 1 Terabit Drive! Drum Roll please… and its only $65! This device is well worth it, with tons of memory and password protection, it’s every techies dream. You can save every cafeine induced paper, your pictures that would never see the light of day, movies, music and more. If someone stole your drive they would need a password to get into it so you don’t have to worry about anything being uploaded. So no worries, those wild holiday photos won’t be used for blackmail.

We better get ready for those cyber Monday deals! Happy Holidays from the Pioneer Family to yours!

Holiday Tech Buzz: College Edition
“Well, this year for the 2017-2018 FAFSA, when they opened up the application for students to complete the FAFSA—they opened it in October. So one of the advantages to completing the FAFSA early is to see if you qualify for additional grants. Like the SEOG Grant. The Map Grant. Usually when you complete the FAFSA, you apply for the Pell Grant and then the federal loans. But there’s also additional grants that are out there that usually have cut off dates within the first couple months when the FAFSA is out. So if you complete the FAFSA after a certain date, sometimes you might not qualify for those additional grants. That’s why it’s a good idea to complete the FAFSA as early as you can to see if you qualify for those additional grants. Sometimes if you don’t think you qualify for financial aid, it’s still a good idea to complete it because sometimes you might need it for scholarships. So it’s always a good idea to just have it completed.”

- Oscar Barrera, Financial Aid Evaluator

Go to www.fafsa.gov to complete the application for consideration of all sources of funding, including foundation scholarships and the Illinois MAP grant (Illinois residents only), PSC’s school code is 001640.

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.