It was a morning just like any other. The sun was shining; people were bustling. Out of nowhere, a plane crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Panic ensued, and people had no idea what was going on. After about 20 minutes, another plane crashed, this time, into the South Tower. The panic turned to fear as people now knew this was no accident. In the same period, two other planes were hijacked. While one hit the Pentagon, another was taken over by its passengers and crash landed in a field. The day is Sept. 11, 2001, a day that will forever be etched in the minds of Americans.

It has been 17 years since that horrific day in New York City, Washington D.C, and Pennsylvania. It sits clear in the minds of many Americans, and because of this, every year since the attacks, memorials have been held across the country to honor those who lost their lives that day.

“In a year or two we are going to be having students that weren’t even born when 9/11 happened. You have to wonder when Pearl Harbor happened, how long before people started to forget?”

On Sept. 11, 2018, Prairie State College had its own 9/11 memorial in the Atrium. MSGt. (Ret) USAFR, Georges Sanon, who is the Coordinator of the Students Veterans Center at Prairie State, was more than happy to explain how the memorial was set up. “We start by showing the image of the firefighters holding the flag in the background while I began giving a speech about what happened that day and provided some information, including how many people died.”

He continued to explain that after the speech, there was a moment of silence, followed by “Taps,” which is solemn music that signifies the end of an event, and ended the memorial by saying this should be viewed as a celebration of life.
Profile of the
Kacey Culbreth

Kacey Culbreth was featured in an exhibition called Annual Photographer of the Year and Student Exhibition featuring Kacey Culbreth, seen in the Christopher Art Gallery here at PSC. Majoring in Photographic Studies, Kacey is in her fifth and final semester. She will be graduating this semester but participating in the commencement ceremony in the spring.

The specific name of the exhibit, which featured 10 digital photographs, was The Waters of Yellowstone National Park. The photos were taken at Yellowstone National Park in July 2017. Kacey’s exhibit was in the main wing of the art gallery (the left and right wing featured other talented PSC artists).

Kacey was competing for a scholarship back in April of this year and ended up winning the competition, receiving $1500 to put towards her photography classes, and her pieces were chosen to be displayed in the art gallery.

Kacey wants the students and faculty of Prairie State to know, “A lot of experimentation took place in the making of these photographs. Specifically with many different bodies of water.”

Her final comment was, “Never pass up an opportunity to visit Yellowstone National Park. It is such a beautiful place and I hope to go back someday!”
PSC’S 9/11 MEMORIAL cont.  
By Julia Porco

for survivors and those affected by the events. When the memorial ended, the names of those who had died that day were rolled on the projection screen and small conversations broke out with people sharing their experiences of that day with each other.

Going into more depth on the importance of organizing the memorial, Mr. Sanon explained, “Well, I’m a native New Yorker; I’m from Brooklyn. I remember when I would come home from work, me, and a few of my buddies would go to the Brooklyn Promenade and you could look out across the Hudson River, and you could see the towers.” Some of his family members helped in the volunteer rescue to help find people still trapped under the debris of the towers.

Hitting so close to home, he found it hard to imagine not honoring the tragedy that happened in his own backyard. Continuing the conversation, Mr. Sanon brought to light a sobering thought. He isn't sure what the future holds for the memorial at Prairie State. “In a year or two we are going to be having students that weren't even born when 9/11 happened. You have to wonder when Pearl Harbor happened, how long before people started to forget?”

“After the speech, there was a moment of silence, followed by taps”
Studying abroad is one of the many opportunities that students look forward to when going away to a four-year college or university. However, when attending a two-year community college, students don’t believe they have the access to this opportunity.

That belief can be put to rest because there is, in fact, a way for students who attend a two-year community college to travel the world. Prairie State College is one of many Illinois state colleges that is affiliated with ICISP. ICISP stands for Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs, which allows colleges and universities to pull resources together to allow students to take courses in other countries.

With the help of ICISP, Prairie State offers students the opportunity to spend full semesters in the fall or spring (six-weeks in the summer) in Austria, Spain, England, Ireland, France, and Costa Rica. While some may assume it’s all work and no play, that could not be farther from the truth. While students mostly learn in classrooms, there are many field trips taken to explore other parts of the country, like major cities or historical sights.

According to Landon Dickerson, academic advisor and head of the study abroad program at Prairie State, “You are not limited to an itinerary; you can build your own itinerary.”

Before you start packing your bags, there are a few requirements you must meet to be eligible to apply for the program. It is necessary for a student to have a GPA of 2.75 or above, with a grade of a B or better in English 101, along with having at least 12 credit hours completed.

In addition, some programs require a student to be 18 or older to attend. It is also required to take a language course while abroad, but it is not necessary for a student to be proficient in that language to attend.

A common question regarding this program is whether financial aid can be used towards studying abroad. The answer is yes.

The programs range from $3,000-$12,000, and as long as a student receives financial aid, it can be put towards cost of the trip. When traveling to one of these countries, depending on which one they chose, students stay either in dorms or with a host family.

While housing is included in the price of the trip, some also include meal plans or at the least include breakfast and dinner. While airfare isn’t typically included (some trips do), this gives students the opportunity to stay longer and explore different parts of the country if they wish by creating their own flight schedule.

The study abroad program at Prairie State has been around for years; however, due to a lack of action and knowledge of the program, it was in a state of limbo. Now, with the help of prospective students the program can lift off and create an exceptional learning and cultural opportunity for students.

For additional information, see Landon Dickerson in the Academic Advising office or email him at ldickerson@prairiestate.edu. You can also check out www.icisp.org for information on ICISP.
Letter from the Editor | Debt Free College

By TiAun Donald

Originally, I chose Prairie State College because of its affordable classes, convenient commute, and variety of degree and certificate programs. Pursuing a degree at PSC was in my own hands after I discovered that I would no longer receive financial aid assistance. With my money being funny, I thought getting a degree was not going to happen.

A few months into the semester, I ran into a UPS recruiter who talked about being a part-time package handler at UPS in addition to receiving Chicagoland Regional College Program benefits while in college.

The CRCP blessed me with the biggest opportunity to pursue and finish a degree program at PSC. Working for UPS and being in the CRCP, I was able to obtain my associate's degree in physical education, debt free.

After getting my degree in two years, I thought, “Now what? My first two years of school are paid for; now, all I have to do is pay out of pocket for two more years when I transfer to a four-year institution.”

Another opportunity I had discovered was that CRCP has partnered schools. This means when I transferred to a partner school, they paid for that degree as well. Fantastic!

I’m currently two semesters away from finishing my Bachelor degree at Chicago State University without any loans to pay back, all while working Monday through Fridays and getting a weekly paycheck at the UPS facility in Hodgkins, IL.

Now, you can have the same opportunity; are you ready to get your degree debt free at PSC?

Information below:

Servelure McMath Bostick
Associate Executive Director
Phone: (708) 387-4623
Email: smbostick@crcprogram.com

Use your mobile device to click on QR code app to scan this QR link to the CRCP website to learn more about the program.
By Dan Fogarty

For most students, the idea of transferring to a new college is a daunting task. According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (NSCRC), only a dismal 31 percent of community college students transfer to four-year colleges to continue their education. Although the process of transferring may be strenuous, it is not a struggle that you have to take on alone.

Our very own Prairie State College has many programs set in place to aid our students in the transfer process. These informative programs can be found on the Prairie State website under the following tabs:

Student Services > Advising and Counseling > Transfer Students.

If you have any other questions regarding transfers, speak with Prairie State’s transfer coordinator Sarah Hein, available at (708)-709-3508.

Finding out which college is the right fit can also be difficult, but Prairie State’s College Fair and individual admissions representative visits help ease this process along.

Our very own Prairie State College has many programs set in place to aid our students in the transfer process.

The last step in the transfer process is sending out your transcripts to the schools you are interested in. After returning to the Prairie State homepage, click the green tab that says “order transcripts.” Here you can use Credentials or Webadvisor to send out transcripts to any local college for a fee of seven dollars, paid with credit/debit card or e-check. After the transcripts are sent out, the only thing left is to wait on the college’s response.

The transfer process is not something to be taken on lightly as it is the next big step in your journey to your bachelor’s degree, but with the abundance of help offered by Prairie State, the process can be a breeze. By simply walking down to the transfer coordinator’s office, found to the left of the library, you can begin the transfer process today.

To learn more about our transfer program: QR code scan here.
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Thank you for reading,
our newspaper is for you!

The Pioneer Newspaper (TPN) is a student-run organization, and, as such, serves as the voice for the student population of the college. We understand the how this school plays such a vital role to our community and plan to keep that. As a joint team, we will strive and express accurate information for the students concerning the college, current events, and students; concerns as well as their interest in and around the surrounding community.

Therefore, our ultimate goal is to provide our fellow student, faculty, and guests here at Prairie State College a view to some of our pressing issues on monthly basis. Contributions are welcomed from our fellow students. We are looking for reporters, photographers, cartoonist to be a part of The Pioneer Newspaper. All submissions may be made to thepioneer@prairiestate.edu