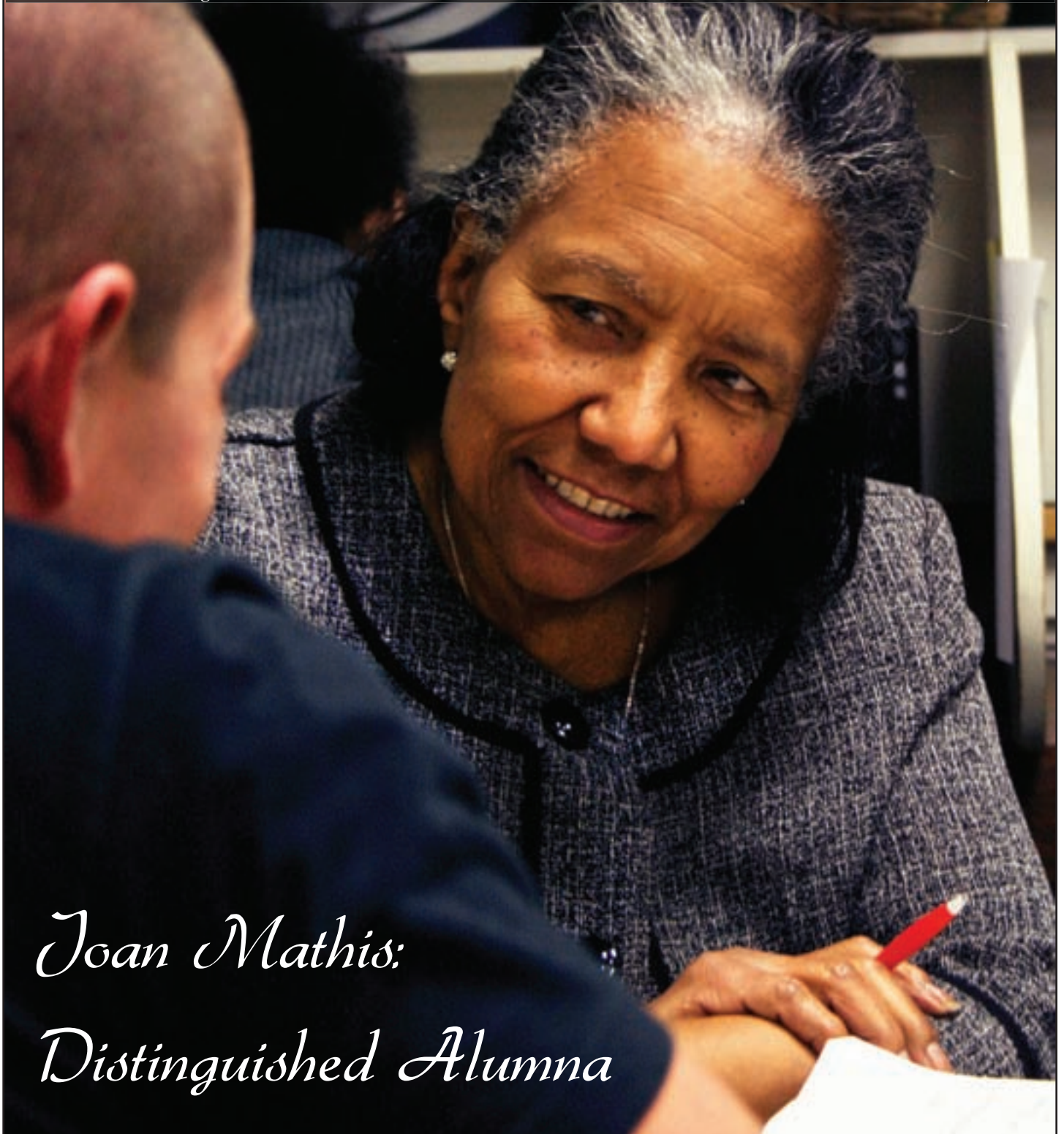


The Bat



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"The Friendliest College In The South"

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*Joan Mathis:
Distinguished Alumna*

The Bat

The student publication of Paris Junior College

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Comments and views in *The Bat*, a student publication of Paris Junior College, reflect thoughts and opinions of individual writers not necessarily the views of other students, staff members, faculty, administrative offices, or the PJC Board of Regents.

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Cover Photo

Joan Mathis helps nursing student, Chastin Cline, with an essay in the Writing Center.

Mathis receives honors

DAVID DANNHEIM
STAFF WRITER

Longtime English instructor Joan Mathis has been honored twice this semester as an outstanding instructor. It is the opinion of many students and faculty members that she more than deserves the recognition.

Recently named the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award (of which only two community college instructors were chosen in Texas), as well as being named PJC Distinguished Alumna this past Saturday, Mathis has, according to multiple sources, earned the respect given to her a hundred times over.

Still, she approaches the praise and attention with nothing but humbleness.

"The awards are well appreciated, but I feel like I don't deserve them," said Mathis.

After graduating from PJC with an associate degree, she earned her bachelor's degree at Wiley College and master's degree from East Texas State University. She taught at what is now known as North Lamar High School, then known as the Powderly Colored School.

She also taught at Paris High and Gibbons, four years at each (Gibbons was still segregated at the time).

Liz Nichols, a current PJC student and former student of Mathis's, had her as a high school English teacher in the late '70s as well.

"I love her to death. She's not only a teacher- she's a friend. She genuinely cares about you, and brings out the best in anybody, young or old," said Nichols.



Christina Gunlock/The Bat
A display in the Student Center, put together by Glenna Preston, honors Joan Mathis and her PJC history.

Nichols added she did better in both classes than she did in any other English class she has had in her time as a student.

Many students may know Mathis as the soft-spoken, friendly instructor who spends much of her time in the Writing Center helping students.

When she began teaching at PJC in 1975, there was no Writing Center. However, nine years later, in 1984, the Writing Center opened, with her as the director. She has been the director ever since, and she

relishes the duties she has been given.

Mathis said if given the option, she would undoubtedly teach without pay because of the

reward she gets from being able to help her students.

"In the Writing Center, I get a chance to interact with students from all the other classes, and they never have a bad thing to say about their instructors," said Mathis.

Along with her contributions

to PJC's Writing Center, Mathis has also done charity work for many other organizations.

Beth Shelton, associate dean of Communications, Fine Arts, has been Mathis's friend and colleague for many years.

Shelton said Mathis has done work for organizations such as Church Women United, a national Christian women's movement, and the Paris Education Foundation, an organization that deals with distribution of scholarships to high school students in Paris.

The biggest opinion was that Mathis gives measureless attention to everybody who enters the Writing Center.

In her letter to the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Selection Committee, Shelton had this to say about Mathis.

"Most important is Joan's dedication to students and learning. Besides her attention to her own students," Shelton wrote, "she spends countless hours tutoring students in the Writing Center and selecting and mentoring tutors who represent

See Mathis page 9.

The origins of handshaking

MICHAEL CARTER
LAYOUT AND DESIGN EDITOR

What's the first thing people do when they meet? Sometimes they smile, check out physical appearance but almost always, a handshake is the norm.

Most Americans have come to see the handshake as a way of non-verbal communication. The handshake is used during job interviews, when first meeting someone, and even to seal an agreement. Though handshaking is not necessarily taught in schools, many are taught handshaking at a very young age.

Although the handshake is thought to be a form of greeting in American culture, the true origin of the handshake is opposite of a greeting.

No one really knows when

the handshake actually began because it predates written history. Because of this a definite, concrete explanation is impossible. But there are various explanations

One ties the handshake to medieval times. According to Liam Varley's online article, *Origins of the Handshake*, the open right hand indicated you were not carrying a weapon. If two men met and displayed empty right hands, they could assume they would not be attacked by each other.

Varley offers another explanation stating that the handshake could have evolved from an elbow to wrist pat down to check for hidden daggers, eventually ending with the two men clutching hands. And, also, that the shaking motion was meant to dislodge any sharp objects that

may have been hidden in the adversary's sleeve. Varley goes on to say that since women did not traditionally carry weapons, handshaking wasn't a common tradition with females.

In an article by Bryce Haymond, *The Origin of the Common Handshake*, it's stated that the earliest records of the handshake were from the Egyptians. Haymond says that the Egyptian hieroglyphic of the extended hand represents the verb "to give." That symbol in particular finds its origin in the shaking of hands which represented the legend of handing over of power from a god to an [earthly] ruler.

According to both Varley and Haymond, in many cultures, the left hand is considered to be unclean and evil which is why the right hand became the dominant

hand for handshakes. Varley explains that in Christianity, the Devil is associated with the left hand in various ways and is normally left handed when depicted. Varley says that in Islamic cultures, the left hand is reserved for less-than-hygienic parts of daily life, due to its association with evil.

When you really step back and think about, handshaking hasn't always been the mundane, routine greeting that modern cultures have made it to be. Just think if hand shaking was still the same as it was back then.

Just imagine going to a job interview and shaking the interviewer's hand to check for daggers.

Now that's a job I'd be a little frightened to go to.



Devon Childers/The Bat



MY TOWN

ALEXANDER THOMAS
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Creighton Newfarmer served in the Coast Guard for three years after high school and studied martial arts. He now commutes to Paris from Hugo, Ok. to study art at PJC.



Christina Gunlock/The Bat

Creighton Newfarmer in front of his latest painting in the art building studio.

I started drawing when I was 11 or 12. I drew cartoon characters and I kept doing it.

How long have you been painting?

Not very long, I took a painting class in high school.

Do you have your art up where people can see it?

I have some work in the art building, just a few.

In the spring semester you won the Rebecca Fitch Award as the Out-

standing Freshman Art Student. How did you feel about that?

Pretty good, surprised because I never win anything.

You were in the Coast Guard. For how long and what made you decide on that branch of military service?

Well after high school, school wasn't interesting. The Coast Guard was appealing because I didn't want to go to Iraq. Besides, I like being in the water. I first started as a seaman, went to gunnersmate school, worked on weapons.

Where do plan on going after you graduate?

I might transfer to UNT. I'm also looking at this art school in Florida.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Making video games, working for a game industry making illustrations.

Dragon



Puffs

Last Day To Withdraw

Today, Nov. 17, is the last day to withdraw from classes with a "W." Forms are available in the Registrar's Office on the Paris campus and the main offices on the Sulphur Springs and Greenville campus. The form must be turned in by 5 p.m.

Thanksgiving Break

Begins Wednesday Nov. 23. Classes resume Monday, Nov. 28.

Skate Night

There will be a Skate Night on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at the Paris Family Fun Center.

Models Needed

Drawing II needs models for the 2012 Spring Semester. Great pay. For more information contact Susan Moore at smooore@parisjc.edu or 903-782-0438.

Dance Date Change

The Homecoming Dance date has changed to Saturday, Nov. 19 at 11 p.m. in the Student Center. PJC I.D. required

Phi Theta Kappa Food/Item Drive

The Greenville campus Phi Theta Kappa is hosting a food/item drive to benefit Women in Need and FISH ministries in Greenville. The drive lasts from Nov. 21 to Dec. 8. Students and community members are asked to bring canned and non-perishable food items, as well as toiletries. Items can be dropped off at a table in the lobby of the Greenville campus.

Early Registration Continues

Early registration continues for Spring 2012 until Dec. 15 for on-campus registration and Jan. 13 for online registration.

Phi Theta Kappa membership

Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society of the two-year colleges, recently mailed invitation letters. The induction program in Paris has been re-scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

Within a few weeks of registering online, members should receive a packet from Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters containing a membership certificate, a membership wallet card, and a lapel pin. For more information on Phi Theta Kappa, contact Joe Jackson in the library at Greenville and Sulphur Springs, David Larkin in Greenville and Sulphur Springs, Marsha Dennis or Allen Williams in Paris.

Dragons slay Vikings 60-41



PJC Men's basketball team (left) celebrates with a friendly handshake between teammates after winning the homecoming against Carl Albert Vikings Nov. 12. PJC cheerleaders and Mascot, Pyro (below) cheer on the team during the homecoming game.

Photos by
Christina Gunlock



PJC Dragons (left) score with a dunk made by freshman #21, T.J. Taylor. Mr. & Ms. PJC (right) Garrett Killgore and Kristi Patel pose for a picture after being crowned 2011 Homecoming King and Queen.



MEET MARY

Class of 2013



LEARN MORE ABOUT MARY AND HOW TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE CAN CHANGE YOUR FUTURE BY VISITING:



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903.886.5000 or 888.868.2682

Mary, an Honors College student studying biology, came to Texas A&M University-Commerce to take advantage of the Honors College full-ride scholarship and to pursue her dream of becoming a neuroscientist.

For Mary, the Honors College presents many great opportunities that can help her as she strives toward her goals. Because she plans to attend medical school after graduation, she is especially interested in writing the required Honors College thesis to add to her résumé.

Along with the academic benefits, Mary enjoys being part of the close-knit A&M-Commerce community and getting to know her professors on a personal level.

“Both the Commerce community and the university are relatively small,” Mary said. “And the small class sizes allow students an opportunity to develop close student/teacher relationships.”

Mary is positive that A&M-Commerce is a great starting point for a career in science and medicine, and is grateful for the knowledge she has obtained at the university.

“When I go on to genetics, cell biology and eventually neuroscience, I’ll have a background in it,” Mary said. “My experience working in the university lab will help me retain the information better and will give me an advantage over other students who don’t have this experience.”



A Member of The Texas A&M University System

PJC presents *Spelling Bee*

AARON MUSTIN
STAFF WRITER

The Paris Junior College Drama Department presents the “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” Friday through Sunday, Nov. 18-20 in the Ray E. Karrer Theatre in the Administration Building.

Performances are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday.

Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$5 for children 13 and younger, and free for anyone who presents a valid PJC ID at the door.

The musical takes place in modern day Putnam County, Ohio at the Putnam County Elementary School and deals with the changes everyone goes through during adolescence.

“It teaches that it doesn’t matter if you win or lose, it’s all about respect for one another,” drama instructor William Walker said. “It’s a fun musical that teaches a really great moral about how we’re all winners whether we win or lose.”

The publicity posters for the



Christina Gunlock/The Bat

Cast members of the “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” performing the final dress rehearsal before opening weekend, Nov. 10-13. The play will continue this weekend, Nov. 18-20, in the Ray Karrer Theatre.

musical state “Parental discretion advised due to young adult themes.”

“There are some young adult situations in this show,” Walker said. “As long as parents understand we’re going to deal with young adult issues of kids going through adolescence, then

anybody can come. You probably really don’t want to bring anyone under the age of 8 or 9 because if they’re not in junior high or right there coming out of middle school, they’re not really going to get it. It just shows the life that an adolescent kid goes through.”

Walker said the musical will be fun and will teach great lessons so everyone is encouraged to attend.

“The music is very upbeat and it’s very brightly colored,” Walker said. “We can all also relate to these kids because we all went through this adolescence period in our lives. Puberty hits us at weird times.”

The “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” is the first musical under the Drama Department’s new musical theater major. PJC is now one of only two public two-year colleges in the United States to have a musical theater program

and an associate’s degree program.

“This is a showcase to let people know we’re here and we’re not going anywhere when it comes to musical theater,” Walker said. “Our expectations are that people are going to see we are serious about it; you know, getting these kids into musical theater programs around the United States when they go on to four year colleges.”

Walker continued, “We picked a show that was easy to do and had a small cast. Originally, it was only supposed to have nine actors, but we extended it to fifteen. We picked it because it was a Tony Award winning musical and it would be a great show for this community. Our music director loves the music and we thought it would be a great inaugural show for our musical theater program.”



Christina Gunlock/The Bat

One of the cast members, Jordan Carter, interacting with extra, Dylan Colbert, during the final dress rehearsal. Audience members are chosen as extras for each show.

One for the money, two for the show



Christina Gunlock/The Bat

Blake Reseskur stands next to his 1999 GMC truck. Blake is an Arkansas native who is studying business here at PJC. He would like to add a 3" lift to his truck to make it stand taller.



Christina Gunlock/The Bat

James "J.R." Lacy stand beside his 2005 GMC truck. Lacy is working towards a degree in sports medicine. Lacy wants to put a set of 37" tires and a 3" lift on his truck.



Christina Gunlock/The Bat

Edgar Soto, a second year student, stands along side his 2003 Ford Sports Trac. Soto is majoring in geology. Soto is planning to paint the whole truck black, rims and all.

Cool rides for campus drives

ALEXANDER THOMAS
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

What makes a vehicle “cool?” it’s all about the add-ons.

Back in the day, having a “cool ride” was having an engine with WAY too much horsepower; these days “bigger is better.” This means having 22” rims and a 15” speaker system in the door or backseat. For college students this is almost an essential for living.

There are a few “tricked” out rides rolling around the PJC campus.

James “J.R.” Lacy, a first year student majoring in sports medicine, is on the baseball team and drives a 2005 GMC truck fitted with 35” tires and 20” rims. To make this ride just a bit taller he has a 6” lift. To get a bigger boom out of his sound system he has a 10” Jackhammer speaker in the cab.

“I plan on adding 37” tires, and a 3” lift,” Lacy said.

“I guess I’m kind of a country guy,” Lacy said. “If it [the truck] had to describe me I guess that’s who I am.”

Lacy’s roommate Blake Reseskur, a first year student ma-



Christina Gunlock/The Bat

James “J.R.” Lacy standing next to his 2005 GMC truck. The baseball player’s ride is fitted with 35” tires and 20” rims. He likes to go mudding and hunting in his truck.

joring in business, also a PJC baseball player, drives a 1999 GMC truck that he has owned for three years. It is set with a Flowmaster Super 40 muffler, and sits on a set of Cooper tires with Ballistic Hostile rims.

“If I don’t sell it I might put a 3” lift on it,” Reseskur said.

Reseskur’s truck also has a Arkansas Razorback decal on the back window.

“I’m a Razorback at heart, that’s just how I am,” Reseskur said.

Edgar Soto, a second year student majoring in geology, drives a 2003 Ford Sports Trac truck. It has bull bars on the front, and it sits on 18” rims with a 10” Infinity speaker in the backseat.

He plans on painting it black, rims and all, because “Everything looks good in black,” Soto said.

Vehicles are not only used for transportation by college students; some vehicles double as rooms or even closets.

“I use my truck for transportation and to make it my sanctuary. One thing I can call my own place,” Soto said.

Sometimes a vehicle is not used so much for college needs as it is for recreational activities. In this case, “great minds think alike.”

“I go mudding in it [the truck] sometimes. I go hunting in it,” Lacy said.

“I use mine for mudding and hauling stuff,” Reseskur said.

Mathis from page 2

the diversity of our student body.”

Mathis dedicates her time to making the lives of PJC students easier. After 36 years teaching at PJC, it is safe to say she has affected nearly every student who has walked through the halls of the community college in some way.

Diann Mason, English instructor and PJC alumna, had Mathis in 1982 as an instructor. She said Mathis was one reason

she changed her major to English.

One day, Mathis came to class and read the poem “Cross,” by Langston Hughes.

“She came in, read the poem, lectured a little on it and began to ask questions about what we learned [from it],” said Mason.

Seeing the students’ reaction to the poem, and the visible effect that Mathis’s teaching had on them convinced Mason to change her major.

Neidra Hall, a current math

major at PJC, was also a former student of Mathis’s.

“What I like about Mrs. Mathis, [is that] even though she’s a great teacher, she also comes and visits students during the summer, like when we were playing ball, she was always up in the stands, hoopin’ and hollerin’,” said Hall. “Everybody loves Mrs. Mathis.”

Hall highly recommends Mathis’s class to anybody who might enjoy English, as well as to anybody who might enjoy

a helpful class with a great instructor.

One thing seems certain; there is an air of respect and utter appreciation for the teacher, whom many have called one of the most genuine people you will ever meet.

“I would like to show my appreciation for Dr. Anglin, the board of regents, Beth Shelton, all of my colleagues and the rest of the PJC staff,” said Mathis, “and, most importantly, the students.”

Meningitis shots a must

AARON MUSTIN
STAFF WRITER

Beginning in January, 2012, a new law will go into effect that requires students to get bacterial meningitis shots for the upcoming school year because of a rise in the number of deaths from bacterial meningitis on college and university campuses.

“The (state) legislature decided to make it a requirement because there have been some deaths due to people contracting the disease,” said Sheila Reece, Associate Dean of Student Access and Success.

Students who are already enrolled at PJC do not need to worry quite yet about getting the shots. This law only applies to new students who are coming to PJC for the first time, or

to students who have missed a long semester and plan on returning in the spring. The shots are mandatory for all students living on campus.

“Students who are enrolled right now at PJC will not have to have it unless they transfer,” Reece said. “When they transfer to a new school, they’ll have to have it for that school, or if they stop coming for a long semester here, they’ll have to have it.”

New students who have not received the shots when they enroll will have until ten days after the semester starts to get the shot and have all the paperwork on file at the school. Students who do not have this done by the tenth day of the semester will be dropped from all their classes. This law will also affect out of state students com-

ing to PJC.

“They (out of state students) will have to have it when they come here,” Reece said. “They can get the shot before they come or when they get here.”

“The law reads that students have to have it ten days prior to the first day of school, but there is a waiver that we can look at to allow them up to ten days after school starts,” Reece said. “At that point, if they don’t have it on file, we have to drop them.”

Students can get the required shots from their physicians or the health department. The cost of the shots will vary depending on if they meet the requirements of the health department (you have to be 19 years of age and live in the dorms), or if they have insurance. The price can range from as low as \$14, com-



pletely covered by insurance, to over \$100.

The only students who will be exempt from this law are students who are already enrolled at their school, students who are only enrolled in online courses, students who could be harmed medically by receiving the shot, and students who choose not to get it for religious reasons. Students who do not get it for either religious or medical reasons must present a signed form from their physician.

Final Examination Schedule

Fall semester examinations will begin Monday, December 12, 2011, and will continue through Friday, December 16, 2011. Examination periods will be one hour and fifteen minutes in length.

MONDAY, DEC. 12

Exams are to be given for all **MONDAY-WEDNESDAY** classes regularly meeting at these periods.

9:50a.m. - 11:05a.m.
1:00p.m. - 2:15p.m.
3:50p.m. - 5:00p.m.

6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m.
All Monday evening classes

Learning Frameworks classes
- **MON** classes as scheduled

TUESDAY, DEC. 13

Exams are to be given for **TUESDAY-THURSDAY** classes regularly meeting at these periods.

9:50a.m. - 11:05a.m.
1:00p.m. - 2:15p.m.
3:50p.m. - 5:00p.m.

6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m.
All Tuesday evening classes

Learning Frameworks classes
- **TUES** classes as schedule

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14

Exams are to be given for all **MONDAY-WEDNESDAY** classes regularly meeting at these periods.

8:25a.m. - 9:40a.m.
11:15a.m. - 12:30p.m.
2:25p.m. - 3:40p.m.

6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. All
Wednesday evening classes

Learning Frameworks classes
- **WED** classes as scheduled

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

Exams are to be given for all **TUESDAY-THURSDAY** classes regularly meeting at these periods.

8:25a.m. - 9:40a.m.
11:15a.m. - 12:30p.m.
2:25p.m. - 3:40p.m.

6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. All
Thursday evening classes

Learning Frameworks classes
- **THURS** classes as scheduled

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011

Exams are to be given for all Friday classes during regular meeting time.

College Culture



DEVON CHILDERS
CO-EDITOR

As the end of the semester approaches, an epidemic strikes campuses across the nation. Sweaty palms, nausea, rapid heartbeat, lack of sleep... These symptoms could be enough to drive a first year med student mad. But these aren't symptoms of a flu or bug, no. This is the sudden feeling of doom students seem to catch the week of finals.

If you have not seen a stressed college student, you haven't visited a campus during finals week. But rest assured that if you are one of those students who stresses about tests, you are not alone. Stress is a natural response to pressure. If you didn't stress, you wouldn't be as aware of situations. So stress is not always a horrible thing. You just have to learn how to manage it.

There are many ways you can handle the stress associated with testing. First of all, remember why you are there. If you're in college, you must have a goal. Every class and test you take is just a step to getting there. If you always keep your goals in mind, it helps to keep focused on them.

PJC student Kelsey Evans developed good study and test preparation skills in high school. By taking college courses during high school, she prepared herself for the college years and finals to come.

"As students, we're pros at taking tests," Evans said. "You've been doing this from

the beginning. Just go with what you know."

Always start to prepare for a test as far ahead of time as possible. This starts by going to class. Even though it is hard to attend some classes, if you want to pass, you have to go to class. Notes can be your best friends. They help you keep up with the material and instructors usually put the information from your textbooks into easier to learn phrases. Taking notes also keeps your brain functioning so you have less chance of falling asleep.

"If you have to miss, make



Courtesy Photo

PJC student Kelsey Evans

sure you know someone in the class," Evans said. "It's best to keep up with what's going on and get copies of the notes you miss."

You pay for the classes you take, so get your money's worth. Ask questions if you

Finals Stress

don't understand. Often there are labs and tutoring programs students can go to or attend. Ask if you can use notes, write down formulas, or any other information you can use during the exam. You never know until you ask, and when it comes to passing, there is never a stupid question.

PJC student David Fehr prepares for his finals as soon as the semester starts. From note taking to class participation and homework, he believes that every part of the class prepares you for the final exams.

"I keep up with everything," Fehr said. "In the end, I go over past homework and notes to make sure I remember the majority of it, and if the teacher has an exam review I always go over that."

A good portion of the stress associated with finals comes from studying. Studying can be a long, boring process. Students often lose focus simply from boredom and give up. The best way to conquer this is by finding out how you study and learn best.

"Don't get too stressed out or bored while studying because the information won't stick," Fehr said. "I usually just take a break from it. Watch television or go on the Internet to relax and then go back to it."

If you are someone who needs silence and a distraction-free zone, go somewhere in isolation to study. If you have test anxiety tell your instructor and certain actions can be taken to accommodate your anxiety. If you need to keep calm and focused, try listening to soft music or snacking while studying. Even chewing gum helps. Plus it is better than

chewing gaping holes into your pencil.

"Usually I eat a lot when I am stressed," Evans said. "It also helps me to stay awake while I study."

Stress does not disappear as soon as you enter the room, so



Courtesy Photo

PJC student David Fehr

try to keep stress down during the test as well. Be prepared. Bring any pencils, Scantrons, notes, paper, and a mint or gum to chew on. Think positive thoughts. Make sure you get a good night's rest the night before and a healthy breakfast before the test. It's hard to focus with a grumbling tummy.

"Once I start taking the test I try not to stress by just reading slowly and answering questions," Evans said. "Stretch and take breaks periodically."

Not every student is the same, so not all stress levels and study patterns will match up in the long run. It is important to find out how you learn best and how your body and mind react to stress. Just remember a few basic points and remember that you are in control of the test, not the other way around.



Homecoming Parade

The PJC 2011 Homecoming Parade went through town the afternoon of Nov. 10. The parade float winners were from first place to third place; above, Texas Institute of Jewelry Technology; right, HARTS, and The Art Department, below. Photos by Kaitlyn Skidmore

