Thanksgiving is.......... 

Not missing the opportunity to reflect on all of the good things in your life.

Not missing the opportunity to express your gratitude to those who have made a difference in your daily life.

Not taking for granted your health, family, and friends.

Not standing by waiting to be asked, but to offer your help.

Not a one day occurrence but a life time of giving.

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**Thanksgiving Dinner Invitation**

To: All students who will be in Stockton over the Thanksgiving break.

From: Housing and Greek Life and Bon Appetit

What: Thanksgiving Dinner

Where: DeRosa Center—The Lair

When: November 24, 2011  2-4pm

Please make a reservation - iamhome@pacific.edu

Guests will be limited to the first 100 that respond.
Thanksgiving marks the beginning of holiday shopping so.....

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HOLIDAY CHEER

***SAFETY IN NUMBERS*** If you are going out shopping, go with a friend or a couple of friends. There really is safety in numbers! Having a friend to shop with not only gives you company, but if you are burdened by shopping bags, one person can watch them while the other shops too! Shop during daylight hours whenever possible.

***TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED*** Don't carry a purse if you absolutely don't need one. Before you leave the house take out the credit cards and cash you need for the day (and your driver's license if you are driving!) and move them into a small credit card case or wallet. Wear pants with pockets to keep your keys & wallet in, it's much safer closer to your person than in your coat pockets. Wear a fanny pack and keep it snug fitting and in the front by your stomach rather than on your hip.

***DON'T MAKE TRIPS TO THE CAR*** Don't drop off packages at the car and then return to the store! That gives wannabe thieves the perfect opportunity to break into your car and steal your items. If you must place packages in your vehicle secure them in the trunk.

***NEVER LEAVE YOUR PACKAGES UNATTENDED*** Not even if they are in a stroller. Always keep them right with you. Leaving them unattended even for a quick minute gives someone else the opportunity to swipe them. If you stop for a snack or lunch, keep your bags close by and keep an eye on them!

***DON'T USE YOUR REMOTE UNLOCK FROM A DISTANCE*** Wait until you are right at your vehicle to open the car. Doing it from a distance not only allows someone access to your vehicle, but it also tells them exactly where the harried mom with the small kids and full arms is headed!

***BE ALERT*** Always be aware of your surroundings. If a suspicious looking character or group of people are near your vehicle turn around and go back into the store and ask security to escort you to your car. Always try to see what's going on around you! An alert shopper is a safe shopper!!

***STAY SAFE*** Avoid wearing expensive jewelry. Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers at home. Immediately report stolen cards.
Secure Internet Connections

How do you tell if the Internet connections are secure?

"Identity Theft" sometimes occurs when someone gets your credit card, bank account or social security number and buys goods or gets credit cards or loans in your name. This is a growing problem, so you should carefully guard personal information that might allow a thief to impersonate you or use your credit.

Industry has developed technology that can scramble sensitive information, such as your credit card number, so that it can be read only by the merchant you are dealing with and your credit card issuer. This ensures that your payment information cannot be read by anyone else or changed along the way. There are several ways to determine if you have that protection when you are sending payment information on the web.

- Look for the picture of the unbroken key or closed lock in your browser window. Either one indicates that the security is operative. A broken key or any open lock indicates it is not.
- Look to see if the web address on the page that asks for your credit card information begins with "https:" instead of "http."
- Some web sites use the words "Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)" or a pop up box that says you are entering a secure area. These security protections do not work in e-mail. So, make sure you send personal and payment information in a secure web transaction.

Phone-In Option

Would you rather give your credit card information over the phone?

Many web merchants allow you to order online and give your credit card information over the phone. If you do this, make a note of the phone number, company, the date and time of your call, and the name of the person who recorded your credit card number.

Passwords

Do you use different passwords?

Passwords are required at various stages of computer use and web shopping to help assure that someone is not misusing your computer or personal information. If you use a password to log on to your network or computer, use a different password for orders. Some web sites may require you to create a password for future orders. You may want to create a special password for particularly sensitive sites, such as your home banking site.

How did you choose your password?

The best passwords are not your address, birth date, phone number, recognizable words, or even your pet's name (which might be guessed by someone who has other information about you.). Choose a string of at least five letters, numbers, and punctuation marks. One easy way to create a memorable password is to take the first letter of each word in an expression or song lyric, and add some numbers and punctuation marks. For example, "tmottobg15" is derived from a line in "Take Me Out To The Old Ball Game."

How should you record your password?

Don’t write down any password near your computer where someone could see it or carry it in your purse or billfold. If you do record it somewhere, reverse the order of the characters or transpose some letters or numbers. That way, someone finding it won't have discovered your true password.
Who wants to know your password or other identifying information?
Be very careful about responding to an e-mail, phone call, fax, or letter from anyone who asks for your password(s), social security number, birth date, bank account, credit card number, mother’s maiden name, or other personal information. Sellers and financial institutions do not ask you for such information unless you are entering into a transaction with them.

Identity thieves make up emails that look remarkably like real websites. If you receive an inquiry for personal information, do not reply directly. To verify that the person contacting you really does work for the seller, call and request to speak to that person directly. You should only have to provide your password to get to your online account, and you should not give your credit card number except when you are actually placing an order. And you should only give your password and credit card number in a secure connection on a web site, not in ordinary e-mail.

Viruses
How can you avoid viruses?
If you receive an unsolicited commercial message, you should not open any attached file whose name ends in ".exe." Clicking on such files could activate a computer virus that might affect the operation of your computer and/or damage the information stored on your computer.

You can also protect yourself against viruses carried by e-mail or by computer files that you’ve received on a floppy disk, by purchasing and installing on your computer or network a virus-protection program. Remember that these programs need to be updated as new viruses are invented. You may subscribe to a service that will either automatically update your anti-virus program or alert you when updates are available and guide you through the installation process. Some internet service providers now provide some anti-virus protection.

American Bar Association
The Department of Public Safety hopes you have a wonderful break.

Be Safe and Enjoy!!