



# Apollos Advocate

Across the Admissions Desk

By Melissa Jardee

As we head into the holiday season, it strikes me that while we celebrate many different holidays around the world, there are a few common themes: family, food, and traditions. I look forward to spending time with family and friends, usually laughing while playing some ridiculously fun game. No matter how much I try not to, I usually end up eating way too much food and it always amazes me how a smell or flavor can invoke precious memories from my past. My mother always made candied yams, with the miniature marshmallows on top. Christmas Eve has always been spent with my grandmothers, where we got to open one gift from home and we always picked it with great care. As an adult, the weekend after Thanksgiving was our marathon decorating weekend as we decorated for my aunt, my mom and then finally our own home. As my children are older now, we are starting new traditions. I am looking forward to having my son home from college and spending time with both him and my daughter. There is nothing quite like the sweet moments spent with family during the holidays.

My wish for you is that you enjoy the upcoming celebrations and the time spent with family and friends, indulging in holiday treats and participating in time honored traditions. Happy Holidays!

## Apollos Information

Administrative Offices will be closed the following dates:

November 22-23 for Thanksgiving

December 24-January 1 for Christmas & New Year

Classes will be available, however, faculty are not required to respond during breaks. If you need assistance during these times, please feel free to call 406-799-1515 or email [info@apollos.edu](mailto:info@apollos.edu).

*Happy Holidays*

## A Soldier's Night before Christmas

It was the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.  
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,  
and to see just who in this home did live.  
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,  
and on the wall pictures of far distant lands.  
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,  
a sobering through came to my mind.  
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,  
the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,  
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.  
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,  
not how I pictured a United States soldier.  
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,  
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.  
Soon round the world, the children would play,  
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.  
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,  
because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,  
on a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home.  
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.  
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

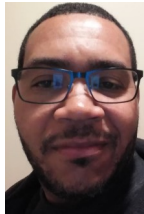
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,  
my life is my God, my country, my corps."  
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,  
and we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I did not want to leave on the cold, dark night,  
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
The soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,  
whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."  
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.  
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

By Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt



# Apollos Advocate



Wilbert Connor is an ambitious, charismatic DBA student. He is the first of his family to attend high school and college, attain a master’s degree and aspire to earn his doctorate. He is originally from Dominica but has been living in the U.S. for over 9 years. He has been impressed by the level of response and feedback from the Apollos staff and faculty. He appreciates that the courses are rigorous but easily accomplished. When deciding where to further his education, Connor chose Apollos because of the cost, accelerated programs, and reviews. He says, “the professors are helpful and provide genuine advice.” His ultimate goal is to return to teaching but at the college level. According to Connor, Apollos is an integral part of that process and “has become the gateway to my future!”



The Apollos’ faculty and staff hold themselves to a higher standard and created the Apollos Core Values to represent these high standards. Please visit our Facebook page to post your core values story.

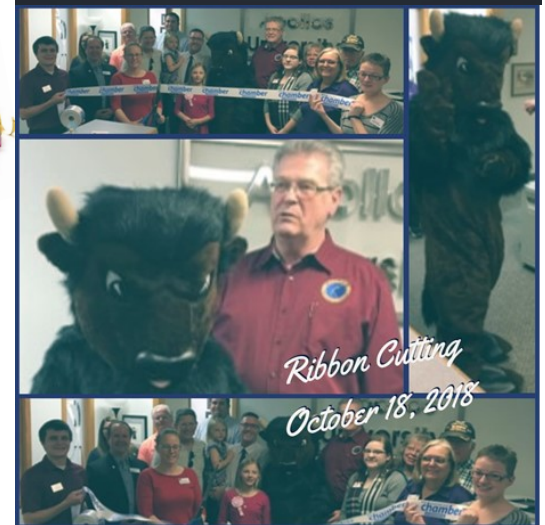
### From the Desk of the President

November and December is a special time of year. During this season, we globally celebrate many holidays and fetes. A small sample of these are: All Saint’s Day, Veterans Day, Remembrance Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, Hanukah, Sinterklaas, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Year’s Eve.

Apollos is a global university and its students, alumni, faculty, and staff are representative of the world’s cultures. We are proud, or the diversity found in our university and honor everyone’s cultures. This dedication to diversity strengthens our university’s culture and we thank each of you for being a valuable member or the Apollos family.

My sincerest hope is for you and your family to enjoy this holiday season and the celebrations that are part of your own culture and traditions.

Best wishes,  
Dr. Scott Eidson



**Montana Winter Trivia**

Number of days in Great Falls with temperatures less than 32°: 155

Average temperature in Great Falls in January: 11° F

Peak wind gust: 92 mph on June 27, 1970

Largest recorded temperature change in one place in a 24 hour period: Loma, MT. (-54° F to 49° F)

The coldest temperature ever recorded in Montana: -70° F at Roger’s Pass. Note: this is also the lowest recorded temperature in the lower 48 states.

On October 18, 2018, Apollos University celebrated its office expansion with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony sponsored by the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce. Goldy was in attendance as well as the office staff and Dr. Paul and Chris Eidson.