

ANNUAL REPORT

2005



Kenai Peninsula College
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



Director's Message...

The purpose of the Kenai Peninsula College Annual Report is to document the accomplishments of the college over the past year and to provide perspective as we look to the future.



This report is not only intended for our stakeholders, but our faculty and staff as well. Frequently we are too busy trying to do our jobs, as we carry out the mission of the college, that we fail to take time to reflect on all the progress and great things we do over the course of a year. This perpetual motion often precludes us from taking a break to look into our rearview mirror. However, we all need to take a moment to pause, to take a breath and reflect on what we did in 2005.

To those of you not associated with KPC, I hope you enjoy reading about this fine University of Alaska community campus and learn about the great things happening in postsecondary education on the Kenai Peninsula and at our Anchorage Extension Site. To those of you who work here, take a few minutes to relive what we accomplished over the past year.

Gary J. Turner
College Director





Kenai Peninsula College... is a community campus system of the University of Alaska Anchorage and was established in 1964. The college's service area ranges from Seldovia to Tyonek to Hope to Seward, encompassing the Kenai Peninsula and shoreline areas of West Cook Inlet. KPC is comprised of the following units:

Kenai River Campus (KRC), located in Soldotna, provides the college-wide administrative support services to the other units. Staffing at the campus includes 25 full-time faculty, supplemented by local adjunct faculty and 37 staff members.

Kachemak Bay Campus (KBC), located in Homer, is staffed by four full-time and one half-time faculty members, supplemented by local adjunct faculty and 17 staff members. The campus operates from three buildings, two of which are located about one mile apart in downtown Homer.

Mining and Petroleum Training Services (MAPTS), was founded in 1979 and operates from a leased office building in Soldotna and the University Center in Anchorage. MAPTS is staffed by five full-time staff in Soldotna, and one staff member and a number of part-time faculty members in Anchorage.

Resurrection Bay Extension Site (RBES), located in Seward, is staffed by a half-time coordinator and 10-14 adjuncts per semester. The coordinator's office and classrooms are located in the "old" Seward Middle School, and provided rent-free courtesy of an agreement between KPC and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Anchorage Extension Site (AES), located in Anchorage at the UAA University Center, is staffed by administrative staff and two full-time faculty members. The site offers degree programs in Process Technology, Industrial Process Instrumentation and Occupational Safety and Health.

Mission Statement

Kenai Peninsula College is committed to excellence in academic, vocational, and life-long learning. Our collective mission is to enhance individual and cultural potential as enlightened participants in the world community.



KPC Facts

- KPC provides UAA postsecondary education to the Kenai Peninsula Borough service area-25,000+ square miles (size of Massachusetts & New Jersey combined.)
- Even with a decreasing population due to out migration and a variety of economic factors, KPC's enrollment numbers and semester credit hour production increased in Spring and Fall 2005. Credit goes to increased focus on faculty advising, marketing and creation of niche programs.
- Spring 2005 semester credit hour production increased 5.62% while the number of students enrolled increased by 2.41% as compared to Spring 2004. Enrollment figures for Fall 2005 saw semester credit hour production increase 3.42% and students enrolled rose 2.44% when compared to Fall 2004.
- The KPC student body is comprised of 61.2% female, 38.8% male students and 11.9% ethnic minorities. Since 2001, minority enrollments have increased 27.7%; Alaska Native and American Indian enrollments are up 182.5%.
- The age of students attending KPC has decreased dramatically over the past five years. Since 2001, traditional age (less than age 25) student enrollments are up 84.3%; 39% of students are under 25, 23% are 25-39 and 38% are over 40.
- More than 200 Kenai Peninsula High School seniors took advantage of the KPC JumpStart program. High school seniors can take up to six credits per semester and pay only \$35/credit instead of the full University tuition of \$109/credit. This program is made possible by the funding KPC receives through the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- Established and received approval of new two-year degree programs in: Paramedicine and General Business, and developed a Digital Art degree that was approved in February 2006. KPC also assumed the Occupational Safety and Health program from the UAA Community and Technical College in July 2005.
- KPC's EZ Payment Plan has made it easier for students to afford attending college by spreading out tuition payments over the course of the semester. Over the past four semesters, program participation has increased 102%, and increased 78% from Fall 04 to Fall 05:
 - 182 students -Spring 04
 - 206 students -Fall 04 -awareness campaign began 8/04
 - 240 students -Spring 05
 - 367 students -Fall 05

Collaborating with School Districts

- Stu Goldstein, KRC welding adjunct instructor, presented welding workshops to area high school students. He took the opportunity to distribute brochures on KPC's welding, machine shop, process technology and other programs as options for the high school juniors and seniors.

Collaborating with School Districts (cont.)

- Goldstein traveled again to Meade River School/Atqusuk, Alaska in the North Slope Borough School District, to offer training sessions and workshops on modern welding technology. This is the second year of this outreach program, which is supported by the school district and the community.
- KBC hosted the second annual Summer Institute of Project Grad during two weeks in June, attended by 80 students from lower Peninsula villages.

Supporting Economic Development

- The KPC Mining and Petroleum Training Service taught 1,237 students in 134 workforce training classes for a total of 2,143 course hours, and students receiving 22,860 contact hours.
- KPC hosted the "Putting Alaska's Resources to Work" (PARW) conference in April at the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska in Kenai. More than 150 leaders from the oil, gas and mining industries joined the State's education and training providers to discuss how the State will meet industry's training needs through 2012 and beyond. KPC will actively participate in the PARW II conference in March 2006 in Anchorage.
- KPC has increased its focus on the Career Resources Center by increasing our efforts on developing additional internship and service learning opportunities. Industry internships have increased to 50 per year in Process Operations, Instrumentation and related areas. Job shadowing has been implemented and industry field trips for student-experience opportunities have increased to more than 100 slots.
- The Career Resources Center continues to co-host Peninsula-wide Job Fairs and presents an annual on-campus career day featuring more than 50 presenters and 300+ high school students attend borough-wide.
- Marathon Oil contacted David Spann, KRC's process technology instructor, to request assistance in developing an operator qualification/certification program for the company's Alaska operations. Spann provided expertise on the project and helped develop the qualification elements.
- KPC's process technology and industrial process instrumentation students had more "industry" experiences available to them than ever before. Primarily negotiated and facilitated by instructor David Spann and professor Allen Houtz, KPC students had opportunities for internships, job shadowing, and industry field trips to North Slope oil and gas facilities, Cook Inlet platforms, Kenai Peninsula oil and gas production/refining facilities and Alaska mining operations.
- Conoco-Phillips Alaska invited a cohort of KRC instrumentation and process technology students to tour the Alpine oil production facility in March. Conoco-Phillips provided transportation, tour guides, and lodging at the facility for KRC students and faculty.

Improving the Community

- The first-ever personal care assistant (PCA) course was offered at KRC in August. This entry level healthcare training course was a success with 12 students completing the course and a 80% certification rate. KBC had 10 students complete the course for a 100% certification rate.
- KRC's first cohort of 12 nursing students began their two-year program in January. In the Fall, eight students were admitted into KBC's first cohort of Nursing students. The students will receive an Associate Degree in Nursing (A.D.N.) and a Registered Nurse certification (it is anticipated that the new RN's will live and work locally.)
- KRC initiated a pilot service-learning program in January 2004. Three years of funding for the start-up program--at \$15,000 per year--was received from the Community College National Center for Community Engagement by way of a "Supporting Actions for Engagement" grant from Learn and Serve America.
- During the four semesters the KPC service-learning program has been active it has inspired and enhanced student learning and benefited participating community agencies in many ways. Service-learning projects have ranged from students painting a 24-foot mural for the local food bank building, writing grant proposals for local non-profit organizations (some of which were funded), preparing volunteer handbooks for the Arctic Winter Games and hosting local radio shows. Students volunteered their services at senior centers, pre- and K-12 schools and various other community organizations.
- Since Spring 2004, nine KPC faculty members invested 1,034 hours implementing service learning projects in 20 courses. More than 280 students participated in these projects committing 3,983 hours of service to 40 community partners.
- 101 individuals earned their General Education Diploma (GED) through the KRC Learning Center and 33 earned their GED through the KBC Adult Basic Education programs.
- The KBC Career Center provided more than 200 hours of career planning services including presenting or supporting workshops in Voznesenka, Ninilchik, Nikolaevsk and Nanwalek.
- KRC hosted its annual "Open House" in January 2005 and "Welcome Back BBQ" in August 2005. More than 200 community members turned out for each event that featured campus tours, faculty presentations, free food and entertainment.

KPC Faculty Accomplishments

- KRC English professor and Arts and Sciences division chair Dr. Barbara Christian announced the release of her book *Belief in Dialogue* in August. Published by Other Press, the book explores the spiritual patterns visible in U.S. Latina literature. It is intended for use in literature, cultural studies and women's studies classrooms.

KPC Faculty Accomplishments *(cont.)*

- KRC communications professor Janice High conducted three research activities over the summer, all designed to benefit KPC. She traveled to Guam to investigate potential scholarly, service learning, and civic partnerships between KPC and the Guam Community College and the University of Guam. High spent a month in Washington, D.C., studying and researching at the Library of Congress as a member of "Rethinking America in Global Perspective" institute sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. She produced a document entitled "Rethinking Alaska in Global Perspective," the findings of which she incorporated in her courses. She also spent a week researching at New York University as a participant in the "Civil War in Global Context" seminar sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. High produced two documents: "Waddell: Bering Sea Battles of the Civil War" and "Slaves and Serfs: The Lincoln Administration's Interest in Russia."
- KRC instrumentation professor Allen Houtz, in his role as the education chair of the Instrumentation Society of America/Alaska Section facilitated a series of control engineering workshops at the ISA/AK Bicentennial Process Control Engineering Symposium in March. The workshops were titled "Wireless Ethernet Communications," "OLE for Process Control Communications" and "Process Control Strategies."
- KRC history professor Cathy Pearce returned from a year's leave from KPC taken to continue study for her Ph.D. in Maritime History at the University of Greenwich's Greenwich Maritime Institute in London, England. While there, Pearce took the opportunity to be an ambassador for KPC and UAA at various maritime conferences. Pearce's work on maritime wrecking has brought international recognition to KPC and UAA.
- As part of a committee selected by the Center for Advancement of Process Technology, KRC process technology instructor David Spann wrote exit exams/certification tests for two knowledge areas: "Petrochemical and Refining Plant Operations" and "Upstream Oil and Gas Production." The exams are in use nationwide and given at KRC.
- KRC art professor Celia Anderson's painting, "Four More Years," was accepted in the U.S. regional juried art exhibition, "Pacific Northwest Art Annual" in Eugene, Oregon. Anderson says the piece is "an indictment of the Bush administration's handling of issues concerning the elderly." While in Oregon, Anderson had artwork accepted by the major gallery "Opus6ix" and secured gallery representation there.
- Dr. Shelley Theno, KRC psychology professor, and a group of psychology majors from the campus attended the 22nd Annual Behavioral Sciences Conference of the North (BSCN) in April. The event was sponsored by the UAA Psychology Department and held on the Anchorage campus. Dr. Theno was one of four judges in the research poster and oral presentation competition. This year 13 students and four projects was an increase from one student and one project last year.

KPC Faculty Accomplishments (cont.)

- KRC anthropology professor, Dr. Alan Boraas, gave three Anthropology presentations: at the National Ethnobiology Conference, "The Moral Landscape of the Dena'ina"; at the National College English Administrators Conference, "Spiritual Aspects of Dena'ina Communication"; and at the Anchorage Unitarian Church, "Dena'ina Cosmology and Martin Buber."
- The annual KRC *Celebration of the Arts and Student Art Exhibition* was held in April in the Gary L. Freeburg Gallery. *Driftwood 2005*, KRC's literary and art magazine, produced and edited by KRC English professor Dr. Barbara Christian, was officially released and there were readings by local writers whose works appear in the magazine.
- KRC photography and art professor Jayne Jones had two of her photographs accepted into *Rarefied Light 2005*, the annual juried, statewide photography show. The exhibit was juried by fine art photographer and San Francisco Art Institute professor Linda Connor. Connor suggested to the Alaska Photographic Center that they recommend Jones' work for a portfolio review by the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. In addition to Jones' work in *Rarefied Light 2005*, Bill Heath, local photographer and new adjunct instructor for *Creative Digital Camera*, had one photograph accepted, as did a former *Beginning Digital Photography* student, Jennifer Tabor.
- KRC art professor Celia Anderson attended the Community College National Center for Community Engagement National Conference, "Valuing Our Partners," in Phoenix, Arizona. Along with Diane Taylor, Learning Center coordinator and Debbie Sonberg, computer information and office systems instructor, Anderson presented a major Service Learning project done in partnership with the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. Their presentation received the most positive comments and highest scores of any presentation at the conference. Anderson was asked by both the Community College National Center for Community Engagement and the National Service Learning Clearing House to provide portions of her presentation for publication on their national website.
- Drew (O'bie) O'Brien, KRC's mechanical technology instructor and Fritz Miller, KRC welding instructor, "volunteered" their students from MECH A101 and WELD A103 to help design and construct a steel sign base and post for the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, as part of KPC's Service Learning initiative.
- Dr. Shelley Theno, KRC psychology professor, conducted a research project with student Holly Kriner, one of her senior psychology majors. They examined differential themes in movie programming on gender-targeted television in the context of a culture of fear paradigm. They plan to submit the results for presentation at the American Psychological Association.
- Dr. Sue Coble, KBC psychology professor, served as an advisor and consultant for a Gerontology research project: "Long Term Care Planning Survey."
- Dr. Dave Wartinbee, KRC professor of biology and nursing advisor, presented a program on aquatic insects to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game employees in August. The 12 state employees who attended came from Soldotna, Anchorage, and Palmer. Most were involved in education programs around the state where they will disseminate the knowledge they acquired.

KPC Faculty Accomplishments (cont.)

- Fritz Miller, KRC welding instructor and ASME welding inspector, brought another welding certification to KPC this year. Structural aluminum welding certification procedures and tests have bolstered the existing welding instruction and testing repertoire. KRC is now one of two centers in Alaska, and the only institution on the Kenai Peninsula, capable of this testing and certification.
- KRC adjunct instructor Bob Amundson did two film noir presentations consisting of a lecture supported by film clips tracing the history, cinematic, and narrative features of the film noir genre. Amundson made presentations at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art and Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) in Seward.

Students Making a Difference

- KRC student Robert Bell was selected by Governor Frank Murkowski as a Student Commissioner to the Alaska Commission of Postsecondary Education. Bell is the sole student member on the commission and will serve in this role for two years.
- The KRC "College Vibes 101" radio program has expanded. The student-run DJ music show, carried on public radio station KDLL 91.9 FM, airs Saturday nights from 10 p.m.-midnight and due to growing interest and popular response, "Vibes" expanded to include Thursday nights. "College Vibes" is a unit of the KPC Media Group (KPCMG) and Janice High, KRC communications professor, serves as the advisor and a member of KDLL's board of directors.
- KPC communications students Mista Sando and Inung Pusita traveled to Indonesia, where they delivered a power point presentation to college students that showed what life is like in Alaska, the Kenai Peninsula and at Kenai Peninsula College. The Kenai River Campus newsletter, the KPC Connection covered the full story of their travels.
- The KRC Student Union for the 4th straight year demonstrated its physical prowess by defeating all challengers in the annual Soldotna Lion's Club Bed Race, successfully defending the trophy. The proceeds of the fundraiser support several scholarships the Lions Club awards annually.
- Todd Marshall-Closson, Kenai River Campus Student Union president, was elected to be the 2005-2006 Speaker for the University of Alaska Coalition of Student Leaders. The coalition's purpose is to serve as an advocate for students and strive to maintain an environment for efficient and cohesive expression of student opinion.
- The KRC Art Student League opened their own art show at Kaladi Bros. Coffee House during the month of March. Pieces exhibited included drawings, photographs and paintings.
- KBC Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language students wrote and produced a book of essays about their lives.

Students Making a Difference

- The annual KBC Student Art Showcase was on exhibit at a local gallery in May 2005 in

Students Making a Difference *(cont.)*

Homer. During Fall, 2005 the first student art shows featuring that semester's student work were exhibited in the new Campus commons.

Campus Improvements

- A \$3 million addition to the Kachemak Bay Campus was completed in January 2005 which added two new classrooms, a science laboratory, student commons, and Student Services and Business office. A grant from the Rasmusen Foundation provided new chairs for the new commons. Two 1% art projects were completed: stained glass in the Commons and an outdoor sculpture installation. The Alaska State Legislature appropriated \$750,000 in 2005 to remodel the now vacant east side of the campus into offices, seminar room and art classroom.
- The \$1.25 million Kenai River Campus addition was completed in December 2005. The new area was added onto the Walter Ward Building resulting in three classrooms and space for a student health clinic.
- All computers in the McLane Building computer lab/classroom were replaced by thin-line desktop PCs that have energy efficient, flat screen monitors. The new PCs were permanently installed in such a way as to allow the classroom to be used for both computer-based and non-computer-based classes. Laptops previously used in this computer lab have been utilized for a variety of campus functions including use in faculty presentations and for dedicated duties such as running the campus closed circuit information system. Ninety percent of the funding for this project came from KRC's 2004/2005 student technology fees and UA network infrastructure fees.
- Wireless capability at KRC is in place in heavily used commons areas. Computer labs have been upgraded with current hardware and software requirements to support course offerings.
- Ten classrooms at KRC were upgraded to include high resolution computer and video projectors, and sound systems all integrated to work with one universal control unit. The goal is to have all KRC classrooms outfitted with the same configuration by Summer 2006.
- 20 new 3.4 GHz Dell workstations with 1 GB of main memory are up and running in Computer Lab 106A. The upgrade was funded with student technology fees. The new computers were purchased to meet demanding applications such as image processing in digital art and industrial process simulation. Computer Lab 108 also received system memory upgrades to 1 GB, improving the lab's utility for computer systems technology courses.

Reaching Out to Alaska Natives

- The Dena'ina Language Institute met at KRC in June for three weeks with about 50 attending. The students ranged from new learners to an elder in his 90s who is the last man known to have killed a bear with a spear in his youth. Dr. Alan Boraas, KRC's professor of anthropology, has been working on a Dena'ina language website project dedicated to preserving the language.

Reaching Out to Alaska Natives *(cont.)*

- KPC's Alaska Native and American Indian enrollments are showing tremendous growth, almost tripling in five years. In fall 2000, KPC enrolled 40 Native students while in 2005, 113 Native students were taking classes.
- KBC staff traveled regularly to Nanwalek and Port Graham while KRC staff traveled to Tyonek and Ninilchik to provide GED and ABE services to community members.

Notable Grants and Donations Received

- The Kenai Peninsula Borough provided KPC with \$502,600 for fiscal year 2006 expenditures. These funds are appropriated through a 1/10th mill tax levy which the voters approved in 1990. Since the start of funding in 1991, the borough has provided \$3,933,484 to KPC. These funds cover many staff positions and community outreach programs including the JumpStart program that allows high school seniors to pay \$35/credit with the borough paying the other \$74/credit.
- KPC is partnering with UAA on a Disabled Student Services grant. This grant provides for a full-time disability support service employee and faculty champion at both KPC campuses enabling the college to enhance support to this ever-growing population on the Peninsula.
- KPC received \$33,100 in donations from the local community to support scholarships and programs at the college.

Summer Programs

- A summer institute for Process Technology educators from across North America was hosted by David Spann and Dennis Steffy of KPC MAPTS. The general theme was "Upstream Oil and Gas Production Technologies." Held under the auspices of the U.S. Center for Advancement of Process Technology, the institute incorporated field trips to the North Slope oil and gas facilities and Cook Inlet platforms. In addition there were workshops and seminars detailing current technologies for the participants, who were mostly university faculty and other professional technical educators.
- KBC hosted the fourth annual widely-recognized Writers Conference attracting more than 140 attendees with U.S. Poet Laureate (2001-2003), Billy Collins, as the keynote presenter, as well as 20 other award winning speakers. Daily workshops, panel presentations, manuscript reviews, craft talks and readings were conducted during the four and a half-day conference.
- KRC continues to offer the Kenai Fishing Academy which was featured in an Associated Press article in August that was published and aired in more than 120 media outlets worldwide, including CNN and Paul Harvey News. The KFA was also prominently on the cover and featured in a five-page Fish Alaska Magazine article in December.
- KBC sponsored its annual summer Elderhostel Program, "Natural and Human History of Kachemak Bay"; 20 participants from throughout the country attended.



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska



University of Alaska is an AA/EEO employer and educational institution.