KPC individual academic paths lead to unity at graduation

By Susan Lee
KRC student services administrative assistant

Two KPC students who will be walking in the KRC commencement next month may differ in age, generation and degrees attained, but there is an important connection: They are mother and daughter, both graduating with honors. Shauna Thornton, speaker for the UA Coalition of Student Leaders, has earned her bachelor’s degree in liberal arts from UAS, while her daughter, high school senior Ashley Thornton, has earned her associate of arts degree from KPC and her high school diploma in the same year.

“I started college in the fall of 2007,” said Shauna Thornton. “That first course started an adventure of self-exploration that has taken many twists and turns; however, this journey has been amazing and I wouldn’t change a thing,” she said. “It has taken many late nights juggling homework, family and work obligations, and support from people that believed I could accomplish this goal. Graduation to me means teamwork and dedication, never giving up and believing in yourself and your dreams.”

Thornton also expressed pride in Ashley’s achievements: “Her dedication and determination have certainly assisted her to gain this milestone.”

KRC will celebrate its 44th annual commencement at 7 p.m., May 8 in the Renée C. Henderson Auditorium at Kenai Central High School.

The keynote speaker will be author Dr. William Hensley, author of Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People. Hensley is a visiting Distinguished Professor at UAA’s College of Business and Public Policy, where he teaches Alaska Policy.

The KRC valedictorian is Maria Sweep, who is graduating with an AAS in general business.

In the foyer of the auditorium immediately following the ceremony, there will be a reception, sponsored by the KRC Student Union, for graduates and their families. KRC Residence Hall also invites graduates to an After-Grad Dance to be held at 9 p.m.

Commencement at KPC’s Kachemak Bay Campus will be at 7 p.m., May 7 in the Mariner Theater at Homer High School. The keynote speaker will be Homer-raised Shannyn Moore, Alaska broadcaster, newspaper columnist and radio and TV commentator. The KBC Student Speaker will be Karmen Classen who is being awarded an associate of arts degree. Degrees being awarded include associate of arts, bachelor of psychology, bachelor of arts in elementary education, associate of applied science in occupational safety and health. There will be a reception for graduates and their families following the ceremony in the foyer of the auditorium sponsored by the KBC Student Association.

Each year KPC’s Anchorage Extension Site honors its graduates at a graduation luncheon. This year the event was held April 21 at the Moose’s Tooth restaurant in Anchorage. According to AES staff, most AES graduates will also participate in the UAA ceremony to be held from 3-5 p.m., May 4, at the Sullivan Arena.

KPC and KPBSD announce plan to expand options and reduce cost for college courses

By KPC Connection staff

Beginning with the fall 2014 semester, high school juniors will be able to take advantage of the JumpStart program that had previously been available only to high school seniors. Students can enroll for up to six credits each semester starting the fall semester they become juniors. Tuition cost is $55 per credit versus the regular rate of $174.

Funded by a 1/10th mill rate on borough property taxes, JumpStart has been in existence for many years. Opening the program to juniors means that high school students can take up to 30 credits (one full college year) at the reduced rate—by the time they graduate from high school.

Students and their parents can potentially save $3,570 on their first year of college compared to regular UA rates. These courses are dual credit, meaning students taking the KPC courses receive both high school and college credit for successfully completing a course with a “C” or better. Course credits earned at KPC through the University of Alaska are typically transferable to accredited colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Secondly, KPBSD will transport KPC enrolled students from all central peninsula high schools to KRC in order to take courses. Buses will arrive at KRC at 9 a.m. and the last departure will be at 1:30 p.m. Nikiski students would depart their high school and KRC 15 minutes earlier.

Since the shuttle will provide continuous service between the schools throughout this period, students could take one or two classes at KRC and return to their high schools to continue their high school classes. Bussing southern peninsula students to KBC is still being discussed with high school administrators and transportation providers.

“I get many requests from parents asking that the JumpStart program be opened to juniors,” said Gary J. Turner, KPC director. “Due to the declining number of high school seniors, we looked closely at our budget and the projected number of seniors the district is anticipating, and determined we can afford to do this with the same amount of funds.”

“Access to KPC courses has always been a challenge to our students without transportation,” said Dr. Steve Atwater, KPBSD superintendent. “We believe that by providing a shuttle, many more of our students will be able to take these dual-credit classes and save a considerable amount of money on their college education. This is a necessary and positive change to help our graduates prepare for life after high school.”

Registration and advising for high school students at KRC will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., April 26, and from 3-5 p.m., April 28. Students who do not enroll during these “early bird” sessions will be able to receive advising from 1-4 p.m., August 13, and enroll in classes from noon-5 p.m., August 15, and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., August 21 and 22.

High school students can receive advising and register at KBC from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., April 21-22.
KPC’s Anchorage Extension Site: an untold story that needs to be read

By Gary J. Turner
KPC director

Although you likely read the front-page article about KPC’s commencements that will be held at KBC and KRC in May, you might not know that on April 21 we also held a small informal commencement ceremony at our Anchorage Extension Site.

It seems that many people still don’t realize that KPC operates a site out of the University Center on the Old Seward Highway that houses our process technology (PRT) and occupational safety and health degree (OSH) programs; these are not small programs.

Minimally staffed with two faculty members, Assistant Professor of process technology Rick Adams and Assistant Professor of occupational safety and health Al Grant, they are aided by two program assistants, Lynda Kreps and Lori Haynes. A number of expert part-time faculty in these fields also help to make these programs successful.

This semester AES serves 253 students taking 1,567 credits, a 24 percent increase in students and a 33 percent increase in credit hours compared to last spring. Over the last five years, AES has shown the largest increases in production of any KPC unit. Since Fall 2009, AES has seen a 63 percent increase in students and a 33 percent increase in credits. In Spring 2004 AES had just 86 students; they just keep growing!

AES graduation numbers are just as impressive. In 2012 there were 19 PRT grads, while in 2013 there were 24. OSH graduated 14 students in 2012 and 16 in 2013.

The work done by the KPC faculty and staff in Anchorage becomes even more impressive when you compare their numbers to programs and campuses outside the KPC system. This semester they are producing more credits than four UA community campuses and have more students and graduates than many UA departments.

As we close out this academic year, I wanted to share this wonderful success story about KPC’s extension site to the north that is doing an amazing job with limited resources, and they just keep growing and growing…

Gary J. Turner, KPC director

Photo provided by KPC advancement

KBC biology student presents at major UAA science conferences

Rachel Rooney, KBC/UAA biology major, under the tutelage of Dr. Deborah Boege-Tohin, KBC associate professor of biology, made an oral and poster presentation at the UAA Undergraduate Research Symposium and presented her poster at the prestigious Behavioral Sciences Conference of the North in Anchorage on April 17-18. Her research project is “Coastal Northern River Otter (Lontra canadensis) Behavior and Offactory Communication at a Latrine Site.”

Rooney was awarded an undergraduate research grant from the UAA Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship in 2012 to support this research as her BIOL A499 Senior Thesis project.

Over the last two years, using monies awarded to Tobin for two KPC community-engagement service-learning mini-grants, a weatherproof remote video camera was installed on the NOAA/UAF Kasitsna Bay Lab dock ramp with assistance from KPC IT technicians and community-partner staff from NOAA/UAF and the Pratt Museum. Rooney’s project was based on the research she conducted at the site.

KPC catalog changes frequency and mode

Beginning next fall semester, the KPC catalog will be published solely as an electronic document, accessible through the KPC website. The change from print format is a cost-saving measure and “also allows us to make immediate updates and changes to the document as needed,” said Dr. Paula Martin, KPC assistant director for academic affairs.

While the print version was published every two years, the e-version will come out annually.

“There will be no program changes made within years. Students can be assured that the catalog year in which they entered their program will not change mid-year,” Martin said.

The catalog is the go-to document for information on programs and courses. In addition, it is a rich guide to student resources and support, campus life, admission and registration, policies and procedures, financial aid, tuition and fees, and student freedoms, rights, and responsibilities.

AAPT conference proves valuable to KRC professor

Andreas Veh, KRC associate professor of physics, recently participated in the American Association of Physics Teachers conference in Orlando. His presentation, “Teaching Physical Science Labs at a Distance,” examined how students can conduct physics experiments at home.

“It was part of a conference sequence entitled ‘Distance Labs,’ with each presenter giving a slightly different take on how to accomplish student outcomes, such as using a self-developed wireless laboratory system or using the apps and sensors incorporated in smart phones and tablets,” Veh said.

His post-conference visit to the Kennedy Space Center also was valuable. “Virtually everything taught in mechanics in a basic physics course comes together when launching rockets and computing their trajectories,” he said.

KRC English faculty member to study and research in Great Britain

Dr. Cheryl Siemens, KRC associate professor of English, has been accepted for the highly coveted University of Bristol (United Kingdom) Institute for Advanced Studies Research Fellowship.

The purpose of the award is to bring distinguished academic visitors to Bristol in order to enhance the research activity of the University. “The application process was a joint project with scholars from Bristol,” Siemens said.

Siemens’ research project, “Valuing Local Knowledge and Diverse Ways of Knowing: Community Engaged Partnerships and Empowering Pedagogy,” will investigate innovative community engagement projects at the University of Bristol and Knowle West Media Center.

Siemens will give lectures and participate in a research seminar at the university. She will participate in the two-month program while on sabbatical next academic year. “I am so excited for this opportunity to study and research abroad,” she said.

Seldovia hoopers say thank you for a stay in KRC dorms

The 17 members of Seldovia’s Susan B. Englis School basketball teams so enjoyed their stay last month in the KRC Residence Hall that their booster club decided to design and purchase a KPC promotional banner as a thank-you for the college’s hospitality.

“They were here to participate in the Skyview basketball tournament, they met with representatives from financial aid, advising and the Native and Rural Student Services coordinator,” said Tammie Willis, KRC associate director of resident life in a recent college council report.

“One of the seniors did apply to KPC for the fall 2014 semester. The men’s team won the tournament and went to the state tournament.”

An email to KPC Director Gary J. Turner, Judy Staandafer, principal of Susan B. English School, said the booster club had been “excited about the opportunity the students would experience while staying at the college. The booster club felt our buying and displaying a banner (at the Seldovia school) for KPC would be another way of saying ‘thank you’ for staying in the dorms and including the students in activities that surround college life.

“Having the banner in the gym will be a reminder to everyone (students and adults) that the college is close to home and another avenue of opportunity for our children to succeed in life.”

KBC’s Sara Reinert’s middle school math team takes second-place statewide honors

The four-member Homer Middle School Math Team, led by Sara Reinert, KRC associate professor of math, took second place at the statewide Math Meet held at UAA last Saturday.

“There are hundreds of kids who participate statewide,” Reinert told the Homer News. “To qualify for the state meet, the HMS team had to compete in the Anchorage Chapter Meet, which took place in February. At that meet HMS competed against teams from eight other middle schools from the Anchorage area.”

After the Anchorage competition, the HMS team joined six other teams and 12 individual math students at the state competition. Reinert, who coaches the team with Rand Seaton, said those students comprised “about 40 of the state’s top math students.”

The competition is part of the nationwide MathCounts Program dedicated to mathematics

The KPC Connection editorial team consists of:
-Gary J. Turner, KPC director
-Suzie Kendrick, KPC advancement programs manager
-Clark Fair, KRC adjunct writing instructor
-Janice Maloney High, KRC associate professor of English

Questions about the KPC Connection or how to submit articles for this newspaper can be directed to Suzie Kendrick at wskendrick@kpc.alaska.edu or by calling 262-0320.

Produced in cooperation with the Peninsula Clarion, Kenai, Alaska.
**Big celebrations are planned for 50th anniversary of KPC, borough and school district**

By Jennifer Anderson  
KRC faculty office manager

KPC’s annual “Welcome Back” barbecue is gearing up to be a gold-ten celebration—marking 50 years of providing high-quality postsecondary education to residents of the Kenai Peninsula.

KPC will share the “golden spotlight” with two other entities also celebrating the half-century mark: the Kenai Peninsula Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

This momentous occasion involves many special projects. For KPC that includes a 50-year anniversary history book commissioned by the college, authored by Tony Lewis and Clark Fair and designed by Chris Jenness; a hand-made photo quilt crafted by longtime staff member Patty Dombovy, and a commemorative three-piece coin set depicting the first three administrators of KPC, KPB and KPBSD.

Although each organization will commemorate this milestone individually over the coming year, the KPC annual barbecue from 4-7 p.m., Aug. 14, at KRC will provide the venue at which the public can celebrate this momentous anniversary with all three organizations simultaneously. Borough and school district officials met with KPC staff on April 18 to discuss each organization’s role, and planning will continue through the summer.

During the barbecue, KPC will entomb a time capsule in a yet-to-be determined location on campus. The capsule will include current culturally relevant items as well as some significant items from KPC’s past, including testimonials from students, staff and community members on how KPC has impacted them over the past 50 years.

In addition to the time capsule, KPC will honor founding director Clayton E. Brockell by raising his military service U.S. flag with instructions in the time capsule to raise it on the 100th anniversary in 2064. The joint celebration at KRC will include live music and a variety of food choices and is free to the community.

By Suzie Kendrick  
KPC advancement programs manager

It’s hard to believe that it’s time to plan for the next two semesters at KPC. Registration is open for the 2014 summer and fall semesters at all KPC locations.

Priority registration for fall wrapped up April 20 for currently admitted and pending degree-seeking students. Priority registration gives these students the opportunity to complete their degrees by ensuring open seats in required classes.

According to recent enrollment reports, KPC continues to see growth. Both summer and fall registration statistics indicate that, compared to the same period last year, enrollment is up at KRC, AES and RBES.

Summer semester has been gaining in popularity every year and that is being measured for this summer with headcount up 12% and credits up 16%. Many students are taking advantage of the shorter, condensed courses to complete general education requirements needed for almost all degree programs.

Many students prefer taking online courses rather than physically attending face-to-face classes and demand for KPC’s high-quality online courses continues to grow.

The college has gained a reputation for excellence in E-learning. For more than a decade, KPC has dedicated resources to create and refine course content that translates effectively in an online format. Faculty members have become adept at making this transition and many courses have been certified by Quality Matters, a nationally recognized quality-assurance program for online education.

The residence hall at KRC is currently taking applications for summer and fall semesters. The hall offers students the opportunity to be a part of a residence life community committed to academic excellence and personal growth. The 92-bed hall offers apartment suites that house four students. Each student has a private bedroom, a bathroom shared with one other student and a common, full kitchen, dining and living room area. The facility is equipped with state-of-the-art security features, including advanced key card technology and closed-circuit surveillance cameras. For more information, visit www.kpcreslife.com or call 262-0256.

Summer semester classes begin May 19 and the last day of classes will be Aug. 2. Courses are offered in various formats, including five-week and ten-week blocks. Fall semester begins Aug. 25. Visit the KPC website to view the schedule of course offerings for both summer and fall and register for classes at https://uaonline.alaska.edu/
A Day in the Life: Julie Ross
Family love, support, and culture lend power to academic endeavors

By Janice Maloney High
KRC associate professor of English

Desire for knowledge—both academic and cultural—is the reason KPC/UAA student Julie Ross, long-time resident of Salem, Ore., is relocating to Alaska to continue her education.

With 20 years’ experience in the health care field, the mother of two will pursue a nursing degree at UAA in Anchorage. In the meantime, while still in Salem, she is taking a full load of KPC/UAA e-learning classes, while also working 30 hours a week as an in-home care provider.

Ross’ ultimate career goal is to become a naturopathic nurse practitioner. “It is not an easy choice to go back to college in your forties, and we had a long family meeting three years ago when I decided this was what I wanted to do,” Ross said. “I must say I am very blessed in that every person in the family was on board to support me.”

That family includes her fiancé, Tom Williamson, his two young children, and her two older ones. Her son Preston, 25, and his wife live in Japan, where he works as a tutor with the Gaba International School System. “He is also the lead singer in an up-and-coming rock band,” Ross said. Her daughter Grace, 23, lives in Salem and is attending college to learn billing and coding. “She has a wonderful son, Elijah, who is turning three this month. Needless to say, we keep very busy with all the kids and the grandchild.”

Family from an earlier generation also has played a role in the relocation decision. Ross wants to learn more about the culture of her grandmother, Charlotte Millard, who was born in Katalla, Alaska, in 1923 and later lived throughout Alaska and in several states. In the 1990s she retired from the Chemawa Indian School in Salem.

“My grammy was barely five feet tall and very petite,” Ross said. “She was an amazing woman. We had many talks prior to her death last July about what she wanted me to learn and see while I am living there (in Alaska). I had hoped to get her well enough to take her back home to at least visit. Now I will have the honor of bringing her back to Alaska one final time.” Ross will take her grandmother’s ashes back to Alaska when she moves here.

Homer conference features big talent to help aspiring writers

By Erin Hollowell
Writers’ conference program assistant

We’re not superstitious here at the headquarters of the Kachemak Bay Writers’ Conference, so it is with great glee that we offer an invitation to the lucky thirteenth annual edition of this event June 13-17.

This year’s keynote speaker is Alice Sebold, a talented memoir writer who became famous nationwide with the success of her novel The Lovely Bones. She’ll be speaking about the process of writing in her keynote: “Guts, Glory & Absolute Confusion: Embracing the Chaos of the Creative Process.”

The idea of writing as process, not product, dovetails with the offerings from the rest of the conference faculty. Award-winning poet Kwame Dawe will offer a workshop called “A Study in the Art of Voice.” National Book Award finalist Debby Dahl Edwardson’s workshop on coming-of-age tales will assist those interested in young adult literature. Ben Percy, whose latest work was named one of the most anticipated novels of 2013 by Publisher’s Weekly, will help participants craft indelible images. Author Eva Saulitis will be talking of writing about place in the short form, while Tom Kizzia helps participants hone their writing on the nonfiction spectrum.

There are more than 40 workshops and panels to choose from during the four-day conference—something for every genre, level of experience and interest. You can get a peek at them all (and the post-conference workshop with Scott Russell Sanders at Tutka Bay Lodge) on the conference website at http://writersconference.homer.alaska.edu/index.htm.

In addition to the writers who will be on faculty this year, editor Heidi Bell and agent Katherine Fausset will be discussing the publishing side of the industry. As always, participants can schedule a meeting to either discuss with an agent or editor a project they are working on or have a manuscript review with the writing faculty.

In the evenings, participants can sit back and listen as conference faculty read their works. All of the readings are free and open to the public. During each day, there will also be opportunities for participants to read their own works at open-mic sessions, network with other writers and even walk on the beach.

Like us on Facebook for up-to-the-minute photos and news of the conference. Register soon for a conference that will strengthen your writing and fire your imagination. Early registration ends May 2.
Word on Campus:
“What will you remember most about your academic career at KPC, and what are your post-graduation plans?”

Compiled by KPC advancement department

Joshua Donn, AES, associate of applied science process technology
“The great part of getting my degree through KPC was being able to work on the Slope while going to school in Anchorage full time. After graduation I plan on working in Valdez as an OM&S Marine Technician at the Alyeska Terminal.”

Karim Reese, KRC, bachelor of arts psychology
“What I think I’ll remember most about my time at KPC is the helpfulness of the faculty, particularly their willingness to answer question after question. I’m a non-traditional student, so I’m not afraid to ask questions! I’ve spent hours with some of the teachers here; they’ll dedicate all of their office hours to answering my questions and that is just fantastic! Seeing them bend over backwards to help me and other students understand concepts has really helped me a lot. The camaraderie of the students has been huge for me as well; the KPC Psychology Club in particular has helped me connect with other students. After graduation I am looking to pursue my master’s degree in art therapy or expressive art therapy.”

Emily Chalup, KBC, bachelor of arts elementary education
“I will remember most the small classes and the wonderful teachers who helped me succeed. I plan to become an elementary teacher in the Homer area.”

Paul Enebloe, KBC, associate of arts
“I will remember most the great teaching staff. After graduating I intend to work on getting a bachelor’s degree in psychology, so I’ll see you all next year!”

Naomi Smardo, KRC, associate of arts
“I will always remember how helpful the teachers were and how awesome it was to work one-on-one with them. After graduation, I’m going to be pursuing my bachelor’s degree in science at UAA, and then I will be attending medical school in Washington.”

Evan Zaragoza, AES, associate of applied science process technology
“What I will remember most about getting my degree through KPC is constantly being challenged by the instructors and collaborating with a great group of friends throughout the program. After graduation I plan on pursuing a career in the oil and gas industry.”

Rachelle McAlexander, KBC, associate of applied science occupational safety and health
“I will remember most the wonderful professors I had in the math department. The fun and learning experiences I gained when a member of the Student Association. I am going back to work in my new profession as a safety manager for Conoco-Phillips.”

Nicole Lopez, KRC, bachelor of arts art
“For me, I will always remember the people and the friendships that I made at KPC. Our campus has such a great atmosphere; I’ll really miss that. Post-graduation, I will be looking for a “big girl” job—I would love to work at KPC!- and work hard to further my artistic career.”

Homer writers’ conference attracts aspiring writers, top authors

By Tony Lewis and Clark Fair

Vicki Steik’s early attempts at writing fiction were, in her own words, “pathetic.” She had taken classes and joined a writers’ group in hopes of improving her craft, but her stories were never any good. So in 2002, the Homer writer attended the inaugural Kachemak Bay Writers’ Conference, sponsored by KBC.

Almost immediately, her confidence grew. Instructors provided practical tips. Workshops at the four-day summer conference allowed time to write and receive feedback. Noted authors shared their secrets and encouraged her to persevere. She enjoyed the experience so much that she has attended the event every summer.

“I sincerely feel that I have learned more at the Kachemak Bay Writers’ Conference than I did in years of college classes, writers groups and workshops,” said Steik. “I keep going back because I learn more every year.”

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“I sincerely feel that I have learned more at the Kachemak Bay Writers’ Conference than I did in years of college classes, writers groups and workshops,” said Steik. “I keep going back because I learn more every year.”

The conference is the brainchild of KBC Director Carol Swartz, Homer author Nancy Lord and others who wanted to build Alaska’s writing community by providing good instruction, hands-on practice, and inspiration from successful authors. While many other conferences focus on publication, the Homer event concentrates on craft.

“It’s very stimulating. It refills the glass with ideas and energy,” said Lord, a regular instructor at the conference. “This has always been about being the best writer you can be. The rest will follow.”

Past conferences have featured Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction writer Michael Cunningham, best-selling author Amy Tan, former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins, prize-winning poet Naomi Shihab Nye, and National Book Award winner Barry Lopez.

Chickaloon writer Eowyn Ivey was writing her book The Snow Child when she attended the conference and met with an agent. After reading the first 100 pages of the manuscript, the agent offered to represent Ivey, and the book went on to become a best seller and a Pulitzer finalist.

“It has been the catalyst for creating a stronger literary community and tradition in Alaska,” said Swartz. “I am very proud and awed that it has grown into the finest gathering of writers and readers in our state.”

50 years of KPC history unveiled in new book

Scheduled to be available by the August 14 golden-anniversary celebration for KPC is a book on the college’s first half-century of history. Entitled Keeping the Fire Burning: A 50-Year History of Kenai Peninsula College, the book will cover the college’s origins and its sometimes tumultuous growth.

Penned by Tony Lewis and Clark Fair, and designed by Chris Jenness, “Keeping the Fire Burning” traces the history of KPC from its early days in Kenai Central High School to life on its modern campus; from its founding director, Clayton Brockett, to its current one, Gary J. Turner; from seeking its first permanent home to expanding into Seward, Homer and Anchorage.

Nearly 300 pages and illustrated with hundreds of photographs and graphics, this book updates and greatly expands a campus history written 20 years earlier by long-time KPC instructor Lance Petersen.
KPC introduces new staff members

Compiled by Clark Fair
KPC adjunct writing instructor

Brandi Kerley
KRC developmental advisor
1. What are your duties?
I am the first point of contact for students wishing to enter the university system, and the advisor for all students in the preparatory math and English courses to facilitate their retention and success.

2. What was your last position? Where?
I was the laboratory assistant to Dr. Alan Boraas in the anthropology department at KRC. I was a student employee for five years at KRC while finishing a bachelor's degree in anthropology.

3. Where did you go to school?
I have attended KPC and UAA to complete a BA in anthropology with a minor in art. Currently I am one semester away from completing a bachelor's degree in anthropology.

4. Where did you go to school?
As a part-time programs assistant in the CCEC, I work directly with the programs manager in outreach, managing the office and records, coordinating projects and events, and collecting data. I help students and the general public search for job, internship and service-learning opportunities. I help maintain and update the career development and service-learning resources and the CCEC information boards and web-based postings.

5. What were your long-term goals at KPC?
Well, to date my long-term goals with KPC have been to complete my education and find employment. I have successfully achieved half of those goals and look forward to continuing to pursue higher education while assisting other students to achieve their academic goals.

Beatrice Sagoonick
KRC career & community engagement center programs assistant
1. What are your duties?
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As a part-time programs assistant in the CCEC, I work directly with the programs manager in outreach, managing the office and records, coordinating projects and events, and collecting data. I help students and the general public search for job, internship and service-learning opportunities. I help maintain and update the career development and service-learning resources and the CCEC information boards and web-based postings.

2. What was your last position? Where?
My last job was a stay-at-home mom. I am still a mom, of course; I have three beautiful children whom I am blessed to care for. And I still get to love on them when I am not working.

3. Where did you go to school?
I finished my degree at KPC; I also attended Alaska Christian College and received a Biblical Certificate.

4. What brought you to Alaska?
My original intent was to come up for my internship only, but after experiencing the hiking and fishing I decided to make Alaska my home. So I moved up permanently in June of 2011 and became veterinary tech in Palmer. I've since relocated to the beautiful city of Soldotna and intend to spend this summer in the sun practicing my cast.

5. What are your long-term goals at KPC?
I have truly enjoyed my first semester working in the KRC library, and I'm very thankful to all the faculty and staff members who have made me feel so welcomed. I'm looking forward to returning this fall and possibly signing up for the fly fishing course next spring.

Samantha Freeborn
KRC library technician
1. What are your duties?
I help students locate resources for their research topics and monitor the library during evening hours.

2. What was your last position? Where?
I was a veterinary technician at Far Country Animal Hospital in Palmer.

3. Where did you go to school?
I attended Muscatine Community College in Muscatine, Iowa, for veterinary technology. Afterwards, I completed my two-month internship in Delta Junction in the spring of 2011.

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Please visit www.cpgh.org or contact Human Resources Director Debi Honer at (907) 714-4770, or email dhoner@cpgh.org.
Quality control allows KPC to crest the wave of online learning

By Heather Nash
KPC ETT lead instructional designer

In 2007 at KPC, less than 10 percent of courses were available online. Instructors had some help learning basic tools for online learning, such as Blackboard and eLive, but there was no real support for instructional design, mentoring of online instructors, or on-campus resources to tap into that could help an instructor learn more. Despite these handicaps, instructors worked hard to build online courses, and students were interested in taking them.

In 2008, KPC was awarded a $2 million, five-year Title III Distance Access and Success Grant. Building on the energy and foundation that was already here, KPC’s Title III team worked with faculty and staff to build structures and process to support online learning at KPC, including video streaming, lecture capture, Quality Matters, and the Life Cycle of eLearning Courses, which supports the development of online courses from birth to rebirth.

In five years, KPC was up to 52 percent of course offerings done online. KPC’s online course completion rate last year was 84.9 percent; of those who completed their courses and received a grade, 84.3 percent succeeded with a grade of C or better.

These figures are outstanding in the world of online learning, and indeed KPC leads UAA overall with offerings, completion, and success. What makes the difference?

When the Title III grant ended in fall 2013, KPC transferred two instructional designers and an educational technologist from grant funding to permanent staff – a major commitment to quality online learning. The ratio of support staff to instructors is high at KPC.

KPC maintains its commitment to quality course design with more courses moving through Quality Matters review. With this, the college works toward high quality, consistent student experiences in online courses.

Of course, not all commitments to quality online learning happen on the design-and-delivery side; some occur on the student-support side. KPC’s include online tutoring services for students, an orientation to online learning module developed by our TAAC-CCT grant, and a student help desk to resolve technology issues.

KPC has developed a university-wide reputation for quality online learning and is committed to continuing to both deserve and develop that reputation.
GET THE SKILLS YOU NEED TO SUCCEED!

General public registration for KPC’s fall 2014 semester OPEN NOW!

Find out why KPC is the fastest growing college in the University of Alaska system, offering more than 380 class sections this fall (133 high-quality courses available online).

Did you know that KPC now offers student housing?

Reserve your space at KPC’s Kenai River Campus Residence Hall. For more information visit www.kpreslife.com.

Hurry, classes are filling faster every semester!

1 (877) 262-0330 www.kpc.alaska.edu

KPC. Your place. Alaska’s future. Soldotna, Homer, Seward, Anchorage and online.

Celebrating 50 Years of Collaboration!

Mark your calendar!
Join us for a free community BBQ from 4-7 p.m., August 14, at KPC’s Kenai River Campus in Soldotna.

Join Kenai Peninsula Borough, Kenai Peninsula College and Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to celebrate and commemorate our 50th anniversaries.

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