Students interested in pursuing a career in nursing must be diligent in preparing prior to submitting their application for the program. According to Dr. David Wartinbee, KRC professor of biology and KPC’s nursing advisor, students need to be aware of recent changes to the popular program.

The UAA nursing department administers the programs that are based at KRC in Soldotna and KBC in Homer. There are now major differences when the two campuses start their programs and their application deadlines.

The program at KRC starts a cohort of eight students every year, and the application deadline for the 2015 cohort will be May 1. Those accepted into this next cohort will begin their classes in September 2015.

The program based at KBC will start a cohort of eight students every other year. The application deadline for the next Homer-based cohort will be July 1, and those selected will begin their classes in January 2016.

The competition for these limited seats is rigorous, and there is a well-defined ranking system that the nursing department uses in evaluating applications. Students with the highest rank will be offered the available seats. Completed applications and test scores must be submitted by the stated deadline, and submitting applications earlier is strongly encouraged.

Students interested in the program must complete a slate of prerequisite courses prior to applying for the program; however, courses that students are currently completing during the spring semester will count in their May 1 application at KRC.

“Realistically, it takes most students one to two full years to acquire the credentials for a complete application with a real chance of being accepted. This time varies according to the course load a student can take and any previous college background,” said Wartinbee.

Students are encouraged to meet with an advisor to plan course timing. For more information, visit the KPC website or call Wartinbee at 262-0377.

KPC’s Student and Exchange Visitor Program approved

By Diane Taylor
KRC learning center programs manager

KPC has received approval for its Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)/Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) application. This approval from the Department of Homeland Security permits non-U.S. citizens to enroll in degree programs offered at KPC.

SEVIS is a web-accessible database used by the Department of Homeland Security to collect, track and monitor information regarding exchange visitors, international students and scholars who enter the United States on F-1 visas. SEVIS is managed by the SEVP within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The finalization of this SEVIS/SEVP certification allows the college to move forward with efforts to internationalize the campus. As part of the UA system, KPC is committed to global awareness and embraces international diversity.

An international student is defined as a person seeking admission to the college who is neither a U.S. citizen or nor a U.S. immigrant. Prospective international students may apply to KPC if they are non-immigrants to the United States and seeking an F-1 student visa. Permanent residents, refugees and political asylees are U.S. immigrants and complete the regular admissions process only.

In the past, an “international student” (someone attending KPC from outside of the US, as an admitted degree-seeking student) could do so only after being formally admitted to UAA, and working through UAA’s International Student Services department. Students may now apply directly to KPC, and be admitted into KPC two-year degree programs. In the future, KPC will consider how to intentionally recruit international degree-seeking students to its campuses, particularly in light of the fact that KRC now has on-campus housing to offer as well.

The International Student Application packet will be available on the KPC website by the beginning of next semester. In the meantime, for more information about the requirements, as well as questions about the application process for an international student, contact Diane Taylor by email dttaylor@kpc.alaska.edu or call 262-0328.

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KPC/UAA nursing program: Success requires good planning

By Suzie Kendrick
KPC advancement manager

KRC’s current class of UAA nursing students began the program this semester and will complete their course work and practicums in May 2016. Pictured from lower left clockwise: Linda Gallardo, Julie Tallent, Charley Tegerdine, Sabrina Dement, Anastasia Monyahan (UAA/KPC assistant professor of nursing), Terresa Zener, Cassandra Boze, Taylor James and Leigh Langham.

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Saluting and supporting KPC military veterans: students, faculty and staff

By Gary J. Turner
KPC director

Like other university campuses around the country, KPC is experiencing tremendous growth in the number of veterans enrolled in our programs. In 2007, 28 veterans took our classes; this semester 181 are enrolled, a 546 percent increase. More than 17 percent of KPC’s full-time student enrollment is funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

We saw this coming, and in 2013, as part of our borough funding, we requested the mayor and borough assembly’s support so we could hire a veteran services coordinator. They understood the need and approved our request, and we were grateful.

We hired John Pollock, Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), who built our vet programs from scratch and created a supportive environment for these students. Pollock was chosen in June to become the KPC director of student services, and we were fortunate to hire Drew Baker, Lt. Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Ret.) to continue building our veteran programs. He is doing great work as Pollock did.

After just more than a year, the support services we provide have grown just as much as the number of veterans we serve. The Veteran Services office is located in the KRC residence hall and provides quiet study space, a lounge with coffee bar and light snacks. Two KPC VA work study students staff the office with Baker and process VA benefit forms and help these students navigate the maze of government regulations and programs. Baker reaches out to veterans at all KPC locations so they are aware of the programs available to them.

A major effort at supporting our vets was allowing them to register early for classes so they can get the classes they need since the VA has stringent requirements vets must meet when enrolled in college programs.

Another program we implemented was the KPC Veterans Talent Grant Scholarship, the only one of its kind in Alaska and possibly the country. We invest 3 percent of the total VA-funded credit hours back into our vet population in the form of tuition waivers (scholarships). Preference is given to combat veterans and those who have no VA educational entitlement remaining.

Other ways we recognize our vets (students, faculty and staff) is by providing them with red-white-and-blue honor cords to wear as part of their academic regalia at commencement. Starting with the May 2015 commencement we will also provide them with red-white-and-blue tassels to hang on their mortarboards. While these may seem like small items, they are a way to recognize the service these men and women have performed for their country.

KPC also has at least 19 veterans who are full-time faculty, staff and adjuncts, and we salute them as we do our vet students. Veterans

Gary J. Turner, KPC director
Photo provided by KPC advancement

Day is Nov. 11, and from Nov. 4-12 there will be banners at our campuses thanking all our veterans. I ask you to do the same: Thank our vets for what they have done to preserve our freedom and for the sacrifices they have made for our country. They deserve nothing less.
**Get your money!**

Scholarship packet streamlines application process

By Suzie Kendrick
KPC advancement manager

Going to college is a major financial investment, and, as with most things, costs continue to rise. Applying for grants and scholarship aid should be a priority for all students.

In an effort to simplify the process of applying for scholarships to KRC, AES and RBES students, the KRC financial aid office prepares a one-stop application package that allows students to apply for multiple scholarships simultaneously. Some of the offerings do require submissions in addition to the application's personal essay. Applicants are also required to have the 2014-2015 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in place, provide transcripts, and be admitted into a UAA or KPC degree or certificate program. KBC students should contact Kim Frost, KBC student services coordinator at 235-1658 about KBC scholarship opportunities.

The packet is released both in the fall and spring semesters, with fall semester offering more opportunities. A number of the fall awards offer both a spring and fall component. The spring 2015 scholarship packet is now available online and at the KRC financial aid office. Students who wish to apply must submit their completed application to the financial aid office by 5 p.m., Nov. 14. View the packet at http://bit.ly/1s4naph.

The scholarships in the current spring packet have been provided through the generosity of the Soldotna Lions Club, KPC staff, KPC faculty, KRC Student Union and the Kenai Peninsula College Council. Also included is the Zane Olson Memorial Scholarship, created in memory of a former KRC art student. Current high school seniors can also apply for a dedicated tuition scholarship. The 2015/2016 KPC High School Senior Tuition Scholarship application is not included in the spring packet but is available online at http://bit.ly/1v1stbY or at the KRC financial aid office (Room 139N, McLean Commons). Recipients will have full-time tuition (up to 15 credits) waived for the fall and spring semesters of the 2015/2016 academic year. Applications are due by 5 p.m., April 2, 2015.

For more information about any of these scholarships, contact Kathi Overpeck, KRC financial aid coordinator, at 262-0332 or Kim Frost, KBC student services coordinator, 235-1658.

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**KPC Service-Learning program links course curriculum to community needs**

By Krista Timlin
KPC career and community engagement center programs manager

KPC has a long history of partnering with local agencies and groups to enhance student learning and to address community needs. KPC’s service-learning program is central to these endeavors.

Ten years ago KPC received a Corporation for National and Community Service grant (through the Community College National Center for Community Engagement) that launched a formal program to encourage faculty to incorporate service learning into their course curricula. The start-up funding aided 16 faculty members from 12 academic disciplines and nearly 600 students to partner with 72 community organizations.

As the grant concluded, Cheryl Siemers, KRC associate professor of English, proposed the development of a Service-Learning Faculty Scholars Program. She and Krista Timlin, KPC staff administrator of the service-learning program, began a training program to help new faculty incorporate the philosophy and pedagogy of service-learning into teaching, research and professional service.

Resulting projects have included:

- An interdisciplinary collaboration of KRC and Alaska Christian College classes with the Kenai Visitor’s and Cultural Center that culminated in the “The Art & Science of Climate Change” exhibit.
- A high school mentoring program in which KRC students partnered with KPBSD, Kenai Alternative School, Skyview High School, and People Promoting Wellness through Community Action.
- KRC English as a Second Language students reading children’s stories from their cultures and sharing food, crafts, artifacts and games with children to garner their interest in the Soldotna library’s summer reading program focused on developing multicultural awareness and understanding.
- KBC student partnership with Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, NOAA, Alaska SeaLife Center and others to participate in the local/international Coastal Cleanup, and to conduct Kachemak Bay intertidal zone surveys, spruce needle studies, and marine mammal studies of river otter behavior and whale bone articulation.

The Service-Learning Faculty Scholars Program has now expanded to include staff. Terri Cowart, KRC Adult Basic Education instructor, was mentored by Diane Taylor, KRC learning center director and adjunct faculty member, and this semester has incorporated service-learning into her “Career & College Awareness” course.

KPC continues to expand its partnerships and research on best practices for service-learning and looks forward to engaging with the community in new arenas. Call Timlin at 262-0337 to learn more.
A Typical Day at KRC Residence Life

By Suzie Kendrick
KPC advancement manager


Drawing on the national Project GRAD model of innovative and research-based educational reform, the program is tailored to this unique and culturally diverse rural region. The project aims to ensure a rigorous public education for Alaskan students, especially those from economically disadvantaged communities, so that more students graduate from high school and enter college prepared to excel.

The students who attended the event were split into two groups. The first group consisted of 10-12th graders from Ninilchik, all serious college-minded students. The second group was made up of high school seniors from various rural communities who also had attended a Nativehipster Leadership event in Anchorage. Both groups took part in KPBSD Career Day and participated in KRC Res Life's Taste of College Program. Some of the students were able to stay in the Residence Hall, but because of its high occupancy, not all could be accommodated.

The Taste of College program was developed by the Res Life staff as a mechanism to provide a real-life collegiate experience for students who might not otherwise have such an opportunity. Prior to coming to campus, Project GRAD staff worked with students to compile lists of careers and academic interests so that their experiences could be individually tailored. Students were exposed to a myriad college-related resources by staff from Financial Aid, Career and Community Engagement, Counseling and Advising, and Rural and Native Student Services.

At ConocoPhillips… We’re moving in the right direction
Anton Ramick, KBC, associate of arts
“Because there are no out-of-state charges. It was affordable for me to move from Oregon to come study.”

Kayla Sims, AES, associate of applied science, process technology
“I am interested in working in the oil and gas industry, and the process technology degree is offered at the KPC Anchorage Extension Site. The two-year degree offers a relatively quick way to get the technical skills for a career in the industry.”

Sean McBride, KRC, undeclared
“I chose to attend KPC because it is local and inexpensive.”

Jake Leage, AES, associate of applied science, process technology
“I wanted to pursue the process technology degree at KPC because I heard good things about the program from friends. I like the Anchorage location because I have family and friends here.”

Heidi Kauffman, KBC, associate of applied science, radiological technology
“To further my education to receive a better job.”

Myles Burton, KRC, associate of applied science, process technology
“I decided to attend KPC because it has one of the best process technology programs in the United States, and it’s not too far away from home.”

Ryan Dobson, KBC, bachelor of arts, justice
“Small classes. Branch of University of Alaska Anchorage.”

Kiah Smith, KRC, associate of applied science, dental hygiene
“I chose KPC because it is close to family and way more affordable than most colleges.”

Efforts underway to retire old joke: ‘Quitting smoking is easy. I’ve done it dozens of times’
By Janice Maloney High
KRC associate professor of English

Students in their teens and 20s make up a large percentage of the KPC student body. That demographic is notable in another way as well: It is the one age group in Alaska that is not reducing its tobacco use.

“Over one in four Alaska adults age 18-29 currently smoke. Smoking prevalence has remained high for this young adult group and has not changed significantly since 1996,” according to the state’s 2014 Alaska Tobacco Facts report.

Here on the Kenai, the Peninsula Smokefree Partnership keeps close tabs on those figures. “It is worth noting that big tobacco targets that age group very heavily,” said Jennifer Olendorff, the organization’s project and grant coordinator. “They spend a lot of marketing dollars there.”

Part of her organization’s efforts to offset that fact is to provide the KPC student health clinic with free “Quit Tobacco” kits. They are supplied to students year-round, with the highest demand in November, which corresponds to the national Great American Smokeout, this year scheduled for November 20. Sponsored by the American Cancer Society since 1977, the Great American Smokeout challenges people to stay tobacco-free for just one day, hoping this will lead to full-time cessation.

“This is when smokers seem most motivated to kick the habit and are most likely to pick up the kits,” said Kathy Becher, advanced nurse practitioner and KRC student health clinic coordinator. When they do pick up the kits, they will find access to important resources and dialogue opportunities, once they call the Alaska Tobacco Quit Line (1-800-QUITNOW).

“The client receives free nicotine replacement therapy and nurse counseling,” said Olendorff. The kits also include information about the dangers of tobacco use and second-hand smoke, as well as the latest views on the efficacy of e-cigarettes. The KRC student health clinic, located in the Ward Building, is open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Figure 6. Percent of Adults Who Smoke, by Year and Age Group, Alaska, 1996 – 2012

Source: Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
Estimates for 2007 and later use a new weighting method; see Appendix B p 136 for more information.

- Over 1 in 4 Alaska adults age 18 to 29 currently smoke. Smoking prevalence has remained high for this young adult group and has not changed significantly since 1996.
- Among adults age 30 to 54, smoking has decreased significantly from 29.6% in 1996 to 23.8% in 2012 (p < 0.001).
- Smoking also decreased significantly among adults age 55 and older from 21.4% in 1996 to 13.2% in 2012 (p < 0.01).
KRC introduces new full-time employees
Compiled by Clark Fair
KRC adjunct writing instructor

Linda J Lundquist
KRC grant and contracts/payroll technician 3

Rebecca Weaver
KRC assistant professor of process technology

1. What are your duties?
To assist with the management of grant funds and to process bi-weekly payroll for all KPC locations.

2. What was your last position? Where?
At Alaska Christian College, I was the vice president for operations, with oversight of administration, finance, human resources, facilities and food services.

3. Where did you go to school?
I graduated high School at Clifton, Kan., and got my bachelor’s of science in business management with an emphasis in human resources at Western Governor’s University in Salt Lake City.

4. What brought you to Alaska?
My husband and I came up to Alaska to work as missionary support staff at Alaska Christian College.

5. What are your long-term goals at KPC?
I want to grow into and learn the requirements for grant management and payroll processing and be the best at it I can be. I also want to assist KPC in meeting its mission of providing access to a quality education to everyone in our community.

KPC student government updates

Kandyce Hignite
KRC Student Union President

By Kandyce Hignite
KRCSU president

KRC Student Union President Kandyce Hignite, Vice President Mackenzie McGee, Marketing Specialist Cheryl Tuttle, and Activities Director Erin Doty would like to welcome everyone with open arms.

Currently in student union we have monthly food events, charity events, and other fun events that the students at the KRC can enjoy. We had a food event Oct. 20, which helped us get the word out while making sure the students got food in their bellies. During this time we had two tables set up, one at which students could offer suggestions on how we could do better, and the other at which the student union conducted our week-long charity event, “Letters to the Troops.” There were about 20 cards for students to sign while eating.

Other events held in October included a book signing for Dave Atcheson’s memoir, Dead Reckoning: Navigating a Life on the Last Frontier, Courting Tragedy on its High Seas. During the last week of the month we had a Spirit Week. Finally, on Halloween the student union participated in a trunk-or-treat that the campus put on for the public.

Students are always welcome to swing by the Student Union office, which is located in the Brockel Building right across from the library.

Savely Kalugin
KBCSA president

By Savely Kalugin
KBCSA president

Last year at this time, I was at Voznesenka High School, a small Russian Old Believer school, planning on attending KBC and excited about going toward my architectural and engineering degree. Now I’m attending classes full time and serving as the KBC Student Association president.

Along with officers Ryan Dodson, Shannon Cefalu, Melody Martin and Connor Barger, I am working to have the student association become more active on our campus. We recently held a very successful outdoor pizza party, with pizzas made to order in a portable wood-fired oven. Our successful mid-term social featured free Thai food and was done to commemorate students on their hard work and making it halfway through the semester. We’ve also planned a “Think Tank” study hall, and the student art show reception will be also hosted by the student association. We have open weekly meetings, during which we encourage students to get involved.

It’s an exciting time at KBC!
Adjunct Spotlight
Compiled by Clark Fair
KRC adjunct writing instructor

Dan Marshall
Teaching part time for 20 years.
Currently teaching English 121, English 111,
Preparatory English 086 at RBES.

1. Why do you teach as an adjunct?
In 1994 I was asked to teach Photography and Darkroom Techniques through KPC. I was only in my second year of teaching for KPBSD, and I saw the photography class as a way to help make ends meet. I had a B.S. in photography and worked as an architectural photographer in Seattle before going back for my master’s in education. The English classes followed soon after, and over the years, I found that teaching part time for KPC was aesthetically the teaching experience I craved.

2. What skills and experiences do you bring to the classroom?
In graduate school I had a literature instructor who opened the avenues of literary interpretation for me, and I began to see author’s intent at an entirely different level. I enjoy the discussions, and encourage students to dig deeper. Certainly, good readers have the impetus to become good writers, and the two walk hand in hand. I have the luxury of collaboration with the high school staff at Seward High, but the discussions are not going to be the same, and the opportunity to draw from the experience of other collegiate instructors is just not realistically available at this time.

3. What is the most challenging aspect of being a part-time faculty member?
I see no challenges.

Gregory Weissenberg
Teaching part time about 10 years.
Currently teaching Russian 101 at KRC.

1. Why do you teach as an adjunct?
Since I have retired from the public school system, working as an adjunct allows me to do something I’ve always liked doing: TEACHING.

2. What skills and experiences do you bring to the classroom?
Experience: 37 years in public education (17 in Russia and 20 in KPBSD). Skills: I graduated from a Russian college with a major in English and a minor in Spanish. Back in Russia, I taught English as a foreign language. Here, in Alaska, I have taught Russian (my native language) as a foreign language. This somewhat unique experience, helps me understand better how my American students are “programed” grammatically.

3. What is the most challenging aspect of being a part-time faculty member?
I see no challenges.

Patricia Brennan
Teaching part time about 10 years.
Scheduled to teach microbiology (Biology 240 with lab) in Spring semester at KBC.

1. Why do you teach as an adjunct?
Originally, in 2005 my employer, South Peninsula Hospital approached me with the opportunity to collaborate with KPC to provide someone to teach microbiology to the students enrolled in the college nursing program. The hospital always needs registered nurses and CNAs and thought it would be an opportunity to reach out within the community to help fill these positions.

2. What skills and experiences do you bring to the classroom?
My microbiology experience began when I joined the Army after receiving my bachelor’s degree. I signed up as a medical technician, and was first stationed at Madigan General Hospital in Tacoma, Wash., reading culture plates and identifying organisms. It was my responsibility to let doctors know what type of infection their patients had and how best to treat it. I continued my clinical education with a year of training at Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio, earning my certification in clinical medical technology. My military career also took me to Fitzsimons Medical Center in Denver. After discharge, I worked for 13 years in the microbiology section at Primary Children’s Medical Center in Salt Lake City.

3. What is the most challenging aspect of being a part-time faculty member?
My position as an adjunct teacher has got me out of their patients had and how best to treat it. I continued my clinical world to relearn and rethink current concepts concerning the unseen word and how it impacts our health and the environment that we live in. Keeping current on the vast amount of research and emerging infectious diseases, as well as staying one step ahead of students, challenges me every day.

CAUTION

Spring registration is right ahead.

12:01 a.m.
Monday, Nov. 24

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Great trails lead to Swiss adventure and plum pie

By Clark Fair
KPC adjunct writing instructor

After I met Yvonne Leutwyler in 2011, I showed her around some of my favorite Kenai Peninsula backcountry trails and bushwhacking routes. Later, we went to my mother’s house, where I made introductions and we ate pear pie and drank hot tea.

Last May, we traveled to Switzerland so Yvonne could show me around the backcountry of her native land and, of course, spend time with her parents. On the evening we arrived, after a 10-hour flight around the globe, her parents, Kurt and Elsi, met us at the Zurich airport and drove us through well-populated green valleys and over rolling green hills to their home in the small town of Widen, where we dined on plum pie and drank hot tea.

Outside, as darkness settled, heavy clouds loomed on the horizon. The next morning, as the clouds broke apart, I stared out the Leutwylers’ living room window and across the sunlit villages in the valley below, to the snow-capped Swiss Alps, at least 50 miles distant and towering toward the sky.

I am drawn by mountains, and I felt their magnetism.

Yvonne and I had planned some aspects of our trip but also wanted to be flexible. Switzerland, a country with four national languages, boasts a system of mass transportation renowned for its punctuality and its reach. Almost anywhere people might wish to travel, some combination of bus and train is available to take them there. After a jet-lag recovery day in Widen, we hitched a train ride back into Zurich for some shopping and a chance to meet up with an old school friend of Yvonne’s.

At the Sternen Grill, I was treated to authentic Swiss cuisine: Spätzli (a pasta dish), Rösti (fried, grated potatoes), a St. Galler Bratwurst topped with very spicy mustard, Bürli (a solid bread roll), and a Falken Eidgenoss naturtrub (beer). I pushed away from the table some time later, sated, swollen and smiling.

Over the next fortnight or so, we participated in the 10-mile Grand Prix von Bern footrace, briefly toured a Habsburg castle, spent several days with Kurt and Elsi in the Italian-speaking city of Locarno, hiked into the Alps—mostly on dry paths, sometimes in snow—strolled across a Roman-style bridge, viewed another castle or two, spent three days hiking out of the resort town of Flims, had an extended-family brunch at a restaurant near a small airfield, and toured a facility where the native storks of Switzerland had been brought back from the brink of extinction.

One of the crown jewels of our experience, however, occurred just two days before we flew home: We took a series of train rides to Grindelwald, a small town at the foot of the Eiger, then trekked a trail along its base about 10 miles to the even smaller town of Wengen.

On this day trip, I was impressed—as I had been in so many places in Switzerland—with the Swiss ability to build solid, durable trails almost anywhere one’s imagination might climb, and numerous places it might not. It seemed at times that nearly every ridgeline we crested or drainage we traveled revealed another stone or wooden structure, either shelter against the elements or some pasture house for durable livestock. Often, what we assumed was the rock-strftime end of the trail led to the beginning of another. And another.

And the realization of this vast network of trails indicated clearly that a return trip to Switzerland would soon be in order. There are so many more things to see and places to go.