

December 7, 2006

TO: News Room: ATTN: Schools Section
Peninsula Clarion <safe:morris>

FROM: Suzie Kendrick
Kenai Peninsula College

RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Wednesday, January 10, 2007)

Walk-in registration opens tomorrow

The spring semester at Kenai Peninsula College begins on January 16, 2007. KPC will be holding walk-in registration tomorrow, January 11 from 8 a.m. -7 p.m. and then again on Friday, January 12 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Registration online will continue to be available at kpc.alaska.edu until the end of walk-in registration.

For those who might not be able to make this registration period, late registration will run through January 19. Students are required to register in-person during late registration. For more information, contact Campus Services at 262-0330.

Wide variety of courses offered this semester

Offering courses that might be of interest to the community is a priority to Kenai Peninsula College. This semester, under the heading of community education, students can choose from painting, fly-fishing, brewing beer, trading stocks, investigating crime scenes, or learning yoga as a teaching tool.

Student Services director Bill Howell, will be teaching a one-credit class titled, "The Art and History of Brewing." Howell, who has enjoyed brewing as a hobby, will be introducing the basic brewing process and the various styles of beer. His class will explore the historical and regional origins of various beers, including their presentation and pairing with foods. The course will include field trips to local breweries. Students must be 21 years old to take the class. The class will be Tuesdays from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in a condensed format from February 6 through April 24.

Another popular class offered this semester is Crime Scene Investigation, a two-credit class offered on Thursdays from 7-9:45 p.m. from January 18 through March 29. This class covers the fundamentals of investigation, including crime scene search, recording, collection and presentation of physical evidence, scientific aids, modus operandi, sources of information, interview and interrogations, follow-up and case presentation.

Oil painting for pleasure, taught by adjunct art instructor Melinda Hershberger, will again be offered as a non-credit class on Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. This course emphasizes oil painting techniques and materials. Subject matter includes Alaskan scenes and wildlife.

The course titled “Active Trading,” examines day trading stocks. Using simulated transactions, students are exposed to concepts, tools and equipment needed to acquire online active trading skills. The course description reminds students that securities’ trading involves significant financial risk and neither the instructor nor the University of Alaska is responsible for student losses related to activities presented in the class. This one-credit class will be offered 5:30 - 6:45 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays in a condensed format beginning February 26 running through April 4.

Under the heading of Philosophy, Dr. Chris Gehrett is offering a class titled Peace Studies. According to the course description, the class will examine the “legacies of peace work through the ideas and people of nonviolence, explore violence and its sources and attempt to translate the qualities of peace into solutions to violence in society today.” The three-credit class will be held from 5:30-8:15 p.m. on Thursday evenings with the first class held on January 18.

New technology allows students to attend classes online, in real-time

This semester for the first time, Kenai Peninsula College/UAA will be offering web-based, Elluminate Live (E-Live) classes that are delivered in real-time so all students in the class meet simultaneously with their instructor in cyberspace. This technology allows students and instructors to engage with each other by talking with full two-way audio, online chatting and messaging, sharing video, and students can view what the instructor writes on a virtual whiteboard and see demonstrations of various software.

This semester classes originate from other campuses in the UAA system as well as KPC campuses.

In order to participate in E-Live delivered classes, the computers students use must meet minimum system requirements, including connection speeds, and have Java Web Start, a headset to listen and speak into (available locally and in the KPC Bookstore) and they must complete the Elluminate Live configuration process.

Information to help students meet all the pre-E-Live requirements is available online at the KPC website. From the homepage, choose Online Services, then E-Live from the secondary menu. There are links on the E-Live page that will help students locate all the information they need to ensure they are ready for their first E-Live class.

Students are encouraged to attend one of the online orientation sessions prior to the beginning of classes. Dates and times for the E-Live orientation sessions are available on the E-Live page on the KPC website. In order to attend one of the E-Live orientation sessions, students must configure their computer by following the E-Live Prep Guide link. Once their computers are configured, students can attend one of the orientation sessions by following the E-Live Orientations link on the E-Live page. Another helpful link on the E-Live page is E-Live Support.

Although the system is straight forward, students should be very familiar with the E-Live delivery system in order to get the most out of this new technology. Students must contact the source campus, listed in the course schedule, for textbook requirements and other details.