

February 14, 2007

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

FROM: Suzie Kendrick
Kenai Peninsula College

RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Wednesday, February 21, 2007)

KPC Student Union actively promoting their agenda to the public

After their trip to the state capital, the KRC Student Union officers want to take the same message they took to the legislators in Juneau to the public here on the Peninsula. The Student Union president, Danielle Pettijohn, says their work is not done until the public embraces the concept that the University of Alaska needs to be a priority in the state's budget plan.

"We say ask not what your school can do for you, but what you can do for your school. KPC needs everyone's help in order to receive funds needed for overdue facilities maintenance. The clock is ticking and the governor needs to hear from students, faculty, staff and the public. Your messages can help her make important financial decisions that will affect all of us and the future of this school. Contacting the governor is easy and costs nothing. Email her a message at www.gov.state.ak.us . Please tell her that university facilities here and around the state need proper maintenance; continuing to wait will only make repairs more expensive. I am imploring everyone to contact Governor Palin today and tell her how KPC has made a difference in your life," Pettijohn said.

For more information about the KRC Student Union, call 262-0339 or email iysgov@uaa.alaska.edu .

KRC Multicultural Consortium has a new advocate

He is studying process technology at KRC, but Harley Semaken's life experiences make him a natural when it comes to promoting cultural events. Semaken has recently accepted the position of multicultural consortium advocate in KRC's Learning Center where he works to promote respect and understanding among people of different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.

Semaken, a 27 year old Alaska Native originally from Fairbanks, previously attended University of Alaska Fairbanks. Since he was 14 years old, Semaken has been

performing traditional Native Alaskan dancing. For the last 12 years he has helped organize dance events at the Alaska Federation of Native Convention and the UAF Festival of Native Arts.

“I served on the AFN public relations committee and enjoyed organizing and promoting the dancing events. I even got to do some of the emceeing at the AFN in 2005. I like the public relations aspect of this new job,” Semaken said.

Semaken hopes he can arrange a variety of cultural events at KRC including Alaska Native dance group performances, Athabascan fiddlers, and a movie night featuring films that raise cultural awareness. He hopes to collaborate with the Kenaitze Tribe and with the Kenai Visitors and Convention Bureau to bring more events to the Peninsula.

When asked how the Kenai River Campus compares to the UAF campus, Semakan said, “It’s different for sure; kind of like what it feels like in a village. Everyone offers to help me and they are very friendly. I have lived here since May and I enjoy the rural feeling. The area here, with all the trees and the river, is beautiful and the weather is really nice compared to Fairbanks.”

For more information or to contact Semaken about potential performers, email ishps@uaa.alaska.edu or leave a message at the Learning Center at 262-0327.

February FAFSA Frenzy: students can take the lead in the race for financial aid

Raising awareness about financial aid resources for college students is being spotlighted this month throughout the entire University of Alaska system. February is officially *Financial Aid Awareness Month* and it revolves around increasing understanding about the federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and why it is so important to students who seek financial assistance for college.

Earlier this month, over 85 people took advantage of the first FAFSA Frenzy event, College Goal Sunday, at the Kenai River Campus. There are several other workshops scheduled over the month to assist students and parents with the paperwork necessary to submit the FAFSA. The workshops at KRC will be held from 1-2 p.m. today, February 21; and two sessions from 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. on Friday, February 23; and at 1 p.m. on February 27 the workshop, held in the commons, will include a free food event. The other session’s locations will be posted near the entrances at KRC.

For more information about the FAFSA Frenzy visit www.alaska.edu/fafsafrenzy or contact the KRC financial aid department at 262-0332 or email incmb@uaa.alaska.edu .

Wellness Fair at the Kenai River Campus

The Student Health Clinic and the Student Union are teaming up to sponsor a Wellness Fair from 12-6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28. The event is open to the public. There will be a variety of booths set-up in the commons.