

March 7, 2007

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

FROM: Suzie Kendrick
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RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Wednesday, March 14, 2007)

KPC faculty achievements speak volumes

Faculty members at KPC's Kenai River Campus do far more than just teach classes. In addition to the time spent in the classroom, faculty engage in research, serve in advisory roles in community venues, write grants and attend continuing education courses. Two well-known faculty members are featured in this week.

Celia Anderson, KRC art professor, has served on the KPC Service Learning Team since the program was launched. She continues to develop innovative methods of integrating Service Learning into KPC classes. Anderson recently received a Service Learning mini-grant to write a new course that focuses on giving art students methods for effective delivery of art concepts to public school children. The proposed course is designed to use a discipline based approach to art's education. The course will culminate with students presenting an art lesson in a public school classroom.

Anderson serves on the arts committees for the Kenai Convention and Visitors Bureau and Central Peninsula Hospital.

Anderson said, "I have always been a painter, on canvas and fiber. I recently had two large paintings purchased by the Anchorage Museum of History and Art for their permanent collection. Both are large self-portraits, in acrylic with found-art components. The pieces are titled, "Caught in the Middle" and "Escape Routes for the Workaholic."

Anderson, a prolific artist, has sold eighteen large, one percent art projects that appear in public buildings across the state.

Anderson is represented by the OPUS6IX Art Gallery in Eugene, Oregon, where a variety of her works are on display on a regular basis.

Professor Allen Houtz, another well-known faculty member, has taught at KRC for 28 years. Houtz is a chemical engineer and industrial control systems expert who brings a wealth of real world experience to his students.

On student evaluations, Houtz consistently ranks among the very best UAA instructors. Recent student surveys characterize him as a "great instructor who puts way too much time into class and lab ... the best instructor at this college."

According to his peers, Houtz is responsible for KPC's Industrial Process Instrumentation associate of applied science degree program. The program is one of the most highly regarded 2-year industrial automation programs in the country. Houtz's instrumentation and process technology students rate highest among forty schools who participate in Shell Oil Company's pre-employment testing program. KRC students have finished first in this program in each of the past three semesters.

Houtz is one of the most involved faculty members at KPC. He serves on hiring committees, oversees scheduling of courses in his department, designs lab configurations, and many other things to make KPC a better environment for students.

As a consulting control systems engineer, Houtz works throughout Alaska, designing and troubleshooting control systems for industry. He has developed and implemented proprietary systems in engine control for power generation and control systems simulation which are widely used. Although not in a research faculty position, Allen pursues research in control systems and industrial automation.

Professor Houtz has recently been approved for a two-semester sabbatical beginning in the fall. He has been invited to the University of Connecticut as a visiting professor. While there, Houtz will continue his research in control systems and industrial automation.

New show in G.L. Freeburg Gallery: “Ghost Markers”

Concerned about global warming and disappearing species? The new show in KRC’s Gary L. Freeburg Gallery, “Ghost Markers”, addresses these concerns in a powerful way. The exhibition, a collection of mixed media works by Anchorage artist, Jannah Atkins, runs through April 6.

KRC surplus auction planned

KRC will be holding a public surplus auction next week. The auction will begin at 11 a.m., Thursday, March 22. There will be an itemized list of items that will be auctioned on the KPC web site on March 19, accessible from the KPC home page.

AARP seminars at KRC

AARP Alaska will be presenting financial education and consumer protection courses from 8:15 a.m. -5 p.m., March 19-20. The free workshops are being offered in twelve communities around the state.

According to the AARP web site, the workshops are designed to help build confidence in people learning how to invest and will help them build a more financially secure retirement. The financial education classes will be taught by financial professionals who will not be allowed to pitch any financial service or product. The goal of the consumer protection classes is to teach consumers how to avoid becoming a victim.

Registration for the free classes can be done online at the AARP Alaska web site.