

March 7, 2007

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

FROM: Suzie Kendrick
Kenai Peninsula College

RE: Weekly Schools Column (published Wednesday, April 4, 2007)

UA Board of Regents meeting at KPC's Kachemak Bay Campus

The University of Alaska Board of Regents will conduct their spring meeting at KPC's Kachemak Bay Campus April 18-19 in Homer.

The BOR serves as the governing entity of the University of Alaska. The 11-member board is appointed by the Governor, then confirmed by a majority of the Legislature in joint session. Members serve an 8-year term, with the exception of the student regent who serves a 2-year term. The BOR, established by the Alaska Constitution, is responsible for UA policy and management through the university president, who serves as the executive officer of the board. The board functions to formulate policy and appoint the president of the university.

The BOR last met on the Peninsula spring 2003 at the Kenai River Campus. This meeting is the first time the Board of Regents has met in Homer since 1987. Generally the BOR meet six times during the year, convening at various campuses in the UA system.

According to Jeannie Phillips, BOR executive officer, work will revolve around approval of policy changes. Phillips says the Regents will hear reports regarding student success, development activities throughout the system, and the state of university libraries. It is anticipated that the Regents will continue putting into place the guidelines set forth in the 2009 Strategic Plan. The plan, formulated in 2003, is the steering document for the BOR and officers of the University of Alaska.

Comedy comes to the Peninsula

The KPC Showcase series brings comedian Kyle Dunnigan, a regular on the popular Comedy Central television show *Reno 911*, to the Kenai River Campus at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 7. Tickets are available at the KPC Bookstore for \$15 general admission and \$12 for seniors, staff and students.

Dunnigan made his stand-up network television debut on NBC's *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. He has appeared three times since. Dunnigan has appeared on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live* and Fox Television's *Cedric the Entertainer*.

Dunnigan has been seen in many commercials and is currently a regular at the Tropicana Casino in Las Vegas.

KPC Faculty expand horizons to benefit students

Dedicated to their professions, KPC faculty travels the world to further their educations and interact with their peers. One such example is KRC professor of history, Cathryn Pearce. Pearce spent her spring break in London, England defending her Ph.D. dissertation, “‘So Barbarous a Practice’: Cornish Wrecking ca. 1700-1860, and its Survival as Popular Myth.”

While in England, Pearce participated in the making of an episode of the British Broadcasting Company's (BBC) award-winning, historical documentary series, “Timewatch.” The program, “In Search of the Wreckers” will “examine the mythology and history of wrecking in the UK, providing a serious historical account of a practice best known to most through fiction and folklore.” The “Timewatch” programs are distributed to BBC America and the History Channel.

Before her trip to England, Pearce collaborated with Krista Timlin, KRC's Cooperative Internship Program coordinator, to establish an Alaska history internship. The internship is designed to introduce students to applied historical practices and career opportunities in an Alaskan public history environment. During the spring semester, one history student will be selected to work with a digital art intern to create a new exhibit at the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center.

Commencement around the corner

Plans are underway for the thirty-seventh annual Kenai Peninsula College graduation ceremony. Commencement will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 10 at Kenai Central High School.

There will be over 120 certificates and degrees awarded to graduates this year.

Twenty-four students will be receiving 2-year associate degrees. These degrees can stand alone as a respected academic achievement or can be used as lower division requirements that will transfer into a four-year degree program.

There will be 81 students receiving associated of applied science (AAS) degrees. For the first time ever in the University of Alaska system, three students will receive AAS degrees in digital art. This degree, recently developed and approved, is only available at the Kenai River Campus. There are 11 students who will receive AAS degrees in paramedical technology, 28 in process technology and three in nursing. The rest of the AAS degrees awarded are in the following disciplines: general business, industrial process instrumentation, occupational safety and health and small business administration.

Kenai Peninsula College continues see an increase in the number of 4-year degrees awarded. This year eleven students will receive bachelor's degrees in the following subject areas: elementary education, psychology and social work.

Three students will receive master's degrees in education. Their degrees, earned from University of Alaska Southeast by doing course work at Kenai Peninsula College, represent a great achievement that many in the public don't realize is locally available.