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

FROM: Suzie Kendrick
Kenai Peninsula College

Students take extensive tour of Agrium facility

Henry Haney, process technology instructor at KRC, recently arranged for an unprecedented tour of the Agrium ammonia and urea synthesis plants in Nikiski. Over thirty process technology and instrumentation students took advantage of the opportunity.

Haney, former lead ammonia plant operator at Agrium, received approval from Agrium management for the tour provided he would personally enforce all safety rules.

“This is a one-in-a-lifetime chance to get such a detailed look at a modern plant like this while it is shut down,” said Haney.

Kenai River Campus surplus auction

Over the course of a year, KRC maintenance personnel upgrade and replace office furniture and other equipment on campus. Many times, items that are no longer appropriate for their former use are still usable. These items are put aside and then offered as surplus items to the public via auction.

The Kenai River Campus surplus auction is scheduled at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 26. Preview of the items to be auctioned will be available from 1-5 p.m., Friday, April 25 and the day of the auction beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Psychology students attend conference

KRC students enrolled in Dr. Shelley Theno's *Research Methods in Psychology* attended the annual Behavioral Science Conference of the North (BSCN) April 18 and 19 at UAA. The conference serves as a showcase for student research in the behavioral sciences. Speakers at this year's conference included Dr. Peter Lichtenberg, professor of psychology and director of the Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology, Dr. Todd Riniolo, associate professor of psychology at Medaille College in Buffalo, and Dr. Todd Thiele, associate professor of psychology at North Carolina University at Chapel Hill and director of research services at the Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies.

This is the fifth year that Dr. Theno's students have participated in the event by presenting original research using experimental design skills they learned in the course. Students presented findings relating to three studies they have worked on this semester. The studies include: *The Effects of Interruptive Cell Phone Use on Mood of Film Viewers*, *The Effect of Ink Color on the Perception of Academic Performance*, and *Pro-social Opportunity: Will a Need in the Presence of Family Oriented Stimuli Elicit Helping Behavior?*

KRC education department places interns

Dr. Christine Gehrett recently announced that six student candidates interviewed for and meet the criteria to be placed as interns in elementary classrooms in the public school system beginning in August. The students are all pursuing bachelor of elementary education degrees and the successful completion of internships is a requirement of the program.

Gehrett reports that the education program, delivered at the Kenai River Campus as a UAA degree program, has been through a major revision based on feedback from students, mentor teachers, professors and the national accrediting body that evaluates the program.

"Key changes involve the internship itself, which will be a single semester. However, the semester previous to that will be a protracted practicum in which students take their reading and math methods while spending two to three days per week in a classroom. They will continue to be involved in the school for an entire year; but the format and expectations have changed," Gehrett said.