



# KPC Connection

## Kenai Peninsula College

University of Alaska Anchorage

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## KPC graduates to be honored at commencement

By Aaron Yankey, Journalism student

Commencement ceremonies for Kenai Peninsula College's Kenai River Campus, were held at Kenai Central High School auditorium on May 2, while ceremonies for the Kachemak Bay Campus were held May 3 at the Homer High School auditorium. More than 230 students received GEDs, Associate degrees, 4-year degrees and master's degrees.

The keynote speaker at KRC was Joe Beedle, recently retired University of Alaska vice president for finance, University of Alaska Fairbanks graduate and former KPC adjunct faculty member. Fran Ulmer, director of the UAA Institute of Social and Economic Research and former Alaska lieutenant governor was the speaker at KBC.

Dignitaries participating in the ceremony included UA President Mark Hamilton; Board of Regent members Carl Marrs, Timothy Brady and Bob Martin; UAA Chancellor Elaine Maimon; UAA Executive Vice Chancellor Gebe Ejigu; college director Gary Turner; campus director Carol

Swartz; and community leaders.

More than 200 people attended each ceremony and receptions for each campus' graduates were held afterwards with plenty of food for family and friends.

KPC graduates are looking forward to using the skills they have learned and implementing them in the work place. One such person is Telotha Lyndsay Rinehart. Rinehart has attended KRC since the fall of 2002 and plans on becoming a teacher after her graduation. She is now tutoring at the KRC Learning Center.

"College will test you, but at the end of a hard day of substitute teaching I feel like I've really gotten something accomplished," said Rinehart. "Stick with it, keep your long term goals in mind, college is worth it."

## KPC summer session offers wide variety of courses

Kellie Massa, Journalist student

KPC summer session is about to start, with an offering of 18 classes, ranging from basics in math and English to more exotic classes like Organic Gardening. Some are one-credit courses, like Still Cinema Multimedia Workshop, while others are up to 12 credits (Paramedic Field Internship).

This summer KPC is offering something new: resident tuition rates for out-of-state visitors, which will result in significant savings to them, and is designed to encourage summer visitors to check out the KPC campus. Students pay \$109 for each lower division credit, and \$123 for each upper division credit.

The individual instructors determine the start-end date of their classes, but most are scheduled to start at the end of the month.

"This starting date of May 30 gives the local high school students the opportunity to take classes without overlapping with the end of their school year," said Bill

Howell, KPC student services director.

Registration is currently underway, both on the web ([www.kpc.alaska.edu](http://www.kpc.alaska.edu)) and on campus (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday).



## Phi Theta Kappa International honors new inductees

By Charlotte Nicolet, Journalism student

Kenai Peninsula College has eight new Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society members. They were formally inducted into the society during March 22 ceremonies on campus. Diane Taylor, advisor of the KPC chapter, welcomed the inductees, members, and guests. Then inductee and president Robert Bell gave opening remarks, stressing that PTK is about the recognition of hard work from individuals who have the desire to achieve.

The keynote speaker of the event was Lorraine "Sammy" Crawford, retired school teacher, school board member and current KPC adjunct faculty member. She shared enlightening stories of courage, persistence, and unexpected surprises for achievements in teaching. Crawford expressed the importance of valuing your self and your dreams. "Sammy was chosen to speak because of her academics and accomplishments," said Taylor. "Her extensive education experience is impressive."

PTK was founded in 1918 at Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri for the purpose of recognizing and encouraging the academic achievements of students of the two year college, as well as providing opportunities that support individual growth and development. At present PTK ranks the leading honor society for higher education in the US with over 1.3 million members and 1,100 chapters in the US and internationally according to ptk.org,

including KPC's seventeen members.

"I think this is a great opportunity for students and it's nice to have recognition for hard work," said inductee Jenifer Toliver, who won a \$100 scholarship in a drawing that evening. "Pleasantly surprised that I'm here," said inductee Steve Shoonmaker. "I'm honored," said Nathaniel Morrison. Other inductees included Leah Durham, Aloysa Hardwood, Laura Ludvick, and Todd Streiff.

At the closing of the ceremony, they were congratulated by all and reminded of the many opportunities opening up for them in areas of leadership, scholarships and education. There is also "the national recognition, involvement in community service, and legacy building which PTK brings to KPC," said Taylor.



New Phi Theta Kappa Inductees Aloysa Hardwood, Jennifer Toliver, Steve Schoonmaker, Robert Bell and Nathaniel Morrison.

## KPC bookstore buyback program is underway

By Katherine Wells, Journalism student

The end of the semester brings an opportunity for students to cash in on their used textbooks. The KPC bookstore is currently holding a book buyback.

"It's nice to be able to give some money back to the students," said Gwen Gere, KPC Bookstore manager. This semester's buyback runs through May 10.

During the scheduled buyback students bring their textbooks into KPC Books, where they are checked into a computer system that gives the cashier the price being offered for the book. The cashier then gives the student their money in cash. Students usually receive about half of their purchase price if the text will be used again at the college, according to Gere.

"Textbooks for science or technology classes get updated more frequently, limiting our opportunity to purchase used editions. Understandably, instructors want current

information for their courses." said Gere.

If professors aren't using the book again it is possible that Missouri Book Services (MBS) Textbook Exchange, a wholesale textbook distributor, will purchase the book. Educational institutions around the country put in orders to MBS requesting used books and MBS then puts out a search for those titles. The transaction still takes place in the bookstore. The price MBS pays for a used book depends on national supply and demand, according to Gere, sometimes it only amounts to a token sum.

"Clean out your closet and bring in your books. We can check prices, maybe the cash will get you lunch at Jose's or at least a beer!" said Gere.

## Homer high job fair brings the community together

By Akin Franciscone, Journalism student

A variety of employers from all over the Kenai Peninsula were on hand to reach out to the Homer community at the biannual Homer College, Career and Job Fair. By doing so, employers and Kenai Peninsula College were able to research the population and recruit people to get involved in their field of work or enroll in school at KPC.

"Over 70 presenters were on hand at Homer High for the March 31 event," said Kim Frost, a Kachemak Bay Campus advisor who worked the booth for KPC.

People of all ages came to town to explore options in jobs and college degrees of interest. Some people were tired of their present job and came to the job fair to explore other options in Alaska. The job fair was such a success that one out of town participant told Frost it was the best she had ever been to. While successful, the fair takes place only every other year.

"It takes a lot of work to get ready and it's a big deal for the high school to up root its schedule for a whole day," said Frost.

This all day event was presented by: Kachemak Bay Rotary Club, KPC, Homer Job Center, Homer High School, Youth Job Training Program and Project Grad. It

included presenters in about 15-20 booths showcasing some 30 different career field options, such as: Icicle Seafoods, Alaska State Troopers, Safeway, Alaska Job Corp, Youth Job training, Northern Industrial Training, Alaska National Guard, ACPE, Lands End, Homer Friends, Child Care Connection and KPC (University of Alaska).

The extended time frame allowed people to come after work and get involved by meeting people that do these jobs. The information that was delivered to the high school population was very useful, since so many young adults are unclear about what to do after high school.

"Many students had come with a specific idea of what they wanted for a career. Then some headed towards fields that they previously thought were undesirable," said Frost.

"Many of the students expressed high interest in the local campus in Homer. This was exciting to them that they did not leave the area right away. The fact that credits from KPC are easily transferable all over the country to many universities opened a lot of eyes in the Homer High Class of 2006," said Frost.

## Spanish Language column: Prepararnos para un futuro

Ramon Carreon, Journalism student

*KPC is a multicultural, multilingual community. In recognition of this diversity, the KPC Connection will periodically feature language articles. The college offers courses in Japanese, Russian, and Spanish.*

En esta ocasión, la segunda en mi Idioma en el KPC Connection, aprovecho la oportunidad que la entidad de periodismo 201 de este colegio me permite, para escribir acerca de la discapacidad visual, que como cualquier otro tipo de discapacidad no son sino barreras que estan en la mente.

Escribir o ser un excelente comunicador por ejemplo no son atributos de personas sanas. En Febrero dos hermanos con retinosis aguda aparecieron en un programa de television latino; Esteban y Leonardo Segura dan clases de computacion para personas con discapacidad visual en el departamento de Filosofia de la Universidad de Costa Rica,

"El que quiere puede" dicen Ellos. "Eso junto al apoyo de quienes les rodean los ha llevado al éxito." Agregan. Una discapacidad es problema? Pudiera ser solo limitacion.

ENGLISH SUMMARY:

In this occasion, my second KPCC Spanish article for

my Journalism 201 class, I have the opportunity to write about visual disabilities as barriers that only exist in the mind.

Writing or being an excellent communicator are not attributes of only healthy people. In February, two blind brothers appeared on a Spanish television program. Esteban and Leonardo Segura teach computer education to people with disabilities, at the department of philosophy for the University of Costa Rica. "If you want to succeed, you will find no barriers," they said. "The support from parents, siblings, friends, and naturally teachers is very important."

We all know that a disability may or may not be a handicap. It only becomes a handicap if it interferes with the individual's expectations, job performance or relationship with family, friends, and society in general. Many see a disability as a problem, when in many cases it is a limitation.

# Classroom spotlight: Anatomy & Physiology I and II

Robert Bell, Journalism student

Students planning to get a degree in one of the health care fields must complete basic prerequisites. One such prerequisite is the lecture/lab courses Anatomy & Physiology I and II.

In these classes students learn about the body from the cellular level up. The courses are challenging because there's so much to learn.

"There is so much to know, and they need to know it all," said Instructor Dr. David C. Wartinbee.

"It is a study of an entirely different world, it is difficult," said nursing program candidate Sherron Collins.

These courses are valuable not only for medical fields; they can be useful on a personal level by giving insight for the monitoring of ones own health.

"It's an amazing house we live in, understanding how our bodies function and the changes we go through as we age, helps us know what we should expect," said

Wartinbee.

Roaming the halls, or hanging out in the commons, one will hear horror stories of the dreaded A & P class, of how difficult and overwhelming it is. The syllabus holds the secret to success in these classes, "Study early, study often."

"The easiest thing about these classes is the way the instructor presents the material; he makes it clear," said Collins.

Classes fill up each semester with 60 students, but about 20 will drop before heading into A & P II, according to Dr. Wartinbee. A & P I is offered in the fall.

Dr. Wartinbee advises students to register early because this class fills up quickly. Next semester the lecture class will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 .am. Labs will be held Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Fall registration is now open online ([www.kpc.alaska.edu](http://www.kpc.alaska.edu)).

## News from the world of KPC art

Patricia S. Thomson, KPC Media Group member

The most recent display at the KPC Gary L. Freeburg Gallery has been the Student Art Exhibit, a juried show featuring work from both this and the last academic year. Selections from 25 students were featured in this mixed media show.

The KPC Art Student League Association (ASLA) has elected its officers for the next academic year. They are: president: Paul Tornow; vice president: Steve M. Schoonmaker; secretary: Pat Hilleary; treasurer: Patricia S. Thomson; and club council representative: Ruth Griess.

Later this month the college will see the installation of an 18ft. tall, 20 ft. long 6 to 7 ton moose sculpture, which was designed and built by student Paul Tornow. It will be located near the flags at the front of the McClane building. Paul's passion for art, welding and creating massive constructions can be seen in this piece.

Traci Knutson is among the ASLA members who traveled to Italy during Spring Break. "It was chosen as the place to visit because of its very long and rich history and

the thousands of painting, sculptures, and mosaics. Italy has, in my opinion, some of the most fabulous examples of architecture in the world."

She said while in Rome the group visited the Vatican, Roman Forum, Coliseum, the Sistine Chapel and the interior of St. Peter's.

"This interior was so incredibly large and if the surface wasn't covered with paintings, fresco, or sculpture then it was marble. If I do go again, I would want to learn their language making it a lot more enjoyable to understand the people."

The "Alaska Positive 2006" statewide photography-as-art exhibit is currently on display in Juneau. Professor Jayne M. Jones received Honorable Mention for her entry. Todd Marshall Clausen's photograph was accepted into the show, and adjunct professor of photography William Heath received Special Honorable mention for his. This show will travel around the state through the summer.

## Advice Column: Sharing with Char

Charlotte Nicolet, Journalism student



*Dear Char,  
My mind goes  
blank when I take  
an exam. What  
can I do to be  
able to think on  
test day?*

*Sincerely, Blanka  
Mind,  
Soldotna AK*

doing. Also, give positive affirmations such as, "I'm going to remember what I studied; I will remain calm; I will remain focused; I can do this." Tell yourself the same things during the test. It's also a good idea to have a snack available. After the test, reward yourself!

According to an online counseling center, improving your perspective of test-taking can help improve performance. Don't think too much about the grade, as it does not reflect your self worth. Avoid all-or-nothing negative self-talk. And, study, study, study. In addition, visit: [www.uaa.alaska.edu/dss/student/testingaccommodations.cfm](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/dss/student/testingaccommodations.cfm) for a list of online resources for test anxiety.

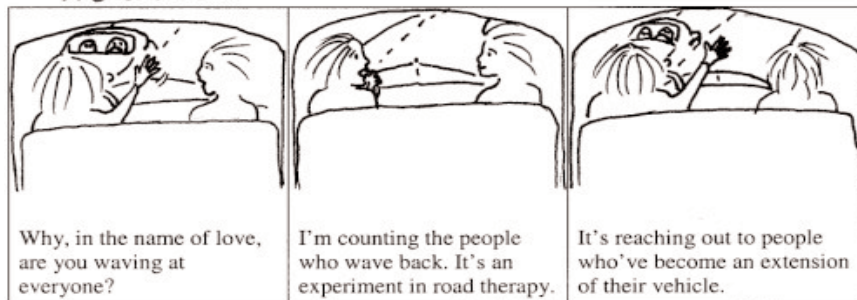
And remember, if test anxiety is affecting your performance, consider meeting with one of the KPC counselors. Appointments can be made at student services.

Dear Mind,

You are not alone. According to Don H. Hockenbury and Sandra E. Hockenbury, co-authors of *Psychology*, we all experience anxiety, the feeling of worry, tension, and apprehension that happens during stressful times. Anxiety is our fight or flight reaction that can help us or hinder us.

From personal familiarity with test anxiety I've found these tips helpful: study well in advance; periodically (to prevent cramming the night before) put material in your own words as much as possible; take notes during lectures; memorize terminology; and, if possible, get a good night's sleep before test day, Sound nutrition helps. Prior to the test eat a healthy meal, relax and breathe, try not to worry or think about how others might be

Eazily Amuzed:  
by Charlotte Nicolet



## Do You Want to Be a Writer?

Dawn Fitzpatrick, Journalism student

Aspiring writers will not want to miss an upcoming opportunity. The annual Kachemak Bay Writer's Conference takes place June 9-13 at Land's End in Homer.

The conference features 23 award-winning and nationally recognized authors, editors, and agents. It offers creative writing workshops, readings, and panel presentations from the writing craft to the actual writing business, according to the conference website.

This year's keynote speaker is Jeffery Eugenides, 2003 Pulitzer Prize winner. He he will discuss the writing of his novel, *Middlesex*.

"It's a really good book, a page

turner, the ignore the kids and forget to feed them" type, said Sue Wohlgemuth, KBC administrative assistant.

Conference panels will cover general topics like grant writing, as well as addressing specific titles such as: Factual Truth vs. Emotional Truth in Creative Nonfiction; To Essay or to Memoir; and When Character Takes Over, according to the schedule.

Katharine Sands, a New York literary agent, will cover the step-by-step process of getting published. There will be a chance to have a manuscript privately reviewed for an additional fee. These need to be in by May 5.

This conference has something for

everyone. Registration is required and "space is limited to 150," said Carol Swartz, KBC director. The conference has been held for the past five summers and is funded in part by the KBC Caroline Coons Writers' Endowment with KBC having a pivotal role.

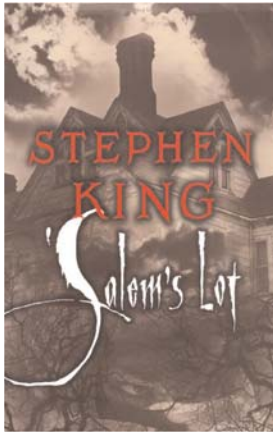
"Early registration is advised," Swartz said. Those who register before May 10 get the best prices. Students enrolled in a degree program pay \$125.00. Non-degree students pay \$250.00. Anyone registering after that will pay \$300.00.

Registration can be completed at: <http://writersconference.homer.alaska.edu>.

## Listen UP! Reviews and Previews

### Book Review: *Salem's Lot* by Stephen King

Linda Kitson, English A111 student



Cover retrieved online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

When I heard that '*Salem's Lot*' was coming to theaters, I knew I had to read the novel on which the film was based. After all, what's the fun of reading a book after you watch the movie? I found this novel to be just as well-written and scary as King's other works. '*Salem's Lot*' is like a carnival ride; it starts out slow and you really have to stick it out but once you reach the good part of it you don't want to stop.

*'Salem's Lot* paints a picture of a small town, and then brings to light all the hidden social evils of any such town. But as scarred, sick, and

twisted as some of these people are, they are just people. Real evil lies in the town's past, and in its very near future. There is an uninhabited house. A house that sits on a hill overlooking Jerusalem's Lot, watching and waiting. Something evil had once made its home in the Marsten House and soon a more sinister evil would come to do the same. This ancient thing has infected The Lot and there may not be any hope of removing it. I won't tell you the end. That would just ruin it for you. But trust me, it's worth the read.

So where can you find this creepy thriller? I got my copy at Fred Meyer for \$7.99; '*Salem's Lot*' can also be obtained through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for the same price. Just remember, like most of Stephen King's books, this isn't one for the kids.

### Gaming Review: Finding *Oblivion*

Jonathan Holvoet, English A111 student

After picking up *Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion* for the PC at Fred Meyer the other day I embarked on a chaotic exploration of this enormous game. *Oblivion* is a fantasy role-playing game that is played primarily from the first-person perspective, or through the eyes of your character. My first short experience with the game left me quite satisfied; once out of the life-like dungeons you see how richly detailed the game is, the quality of the gameplay is apparent immediately but the graphics pick up once the flowing forest vistas are visible.

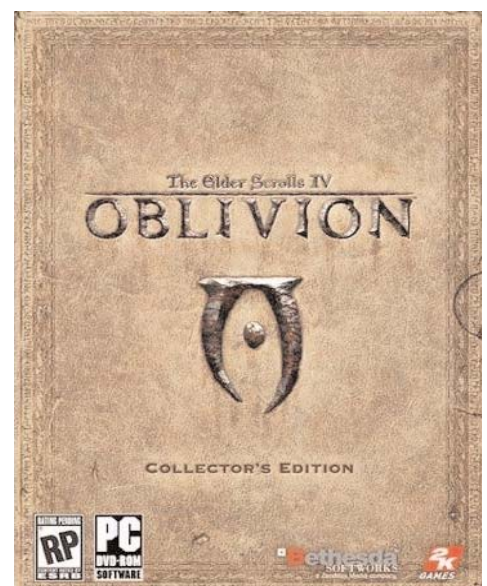
Starting out, Uriel the Emperor of Tamriel is headed into the sewers beneath his palace, soon after the Emperor is assassinated. Getting out of the sewers turns into an experience on how to sort out the many aspects of the game; picking locks, using items, manipulating skills, and conducting combat become important abilities fast. An interesting fact about this game is that the non-player char-

acters (NPC's) are free-roaming and choose their daily activities based upon motivations the programmers gave them. This is a variation in the fact that normally NPC's are controlled by rigid scripts which tell them where to go and exactly when, or possibly the NPC's disappear altogether upon successfully completing a quest.

*Oblivion* has been released simultaneously for PC and the Xbox 360; be forewarned if planning on purchasing the PC version as it requires at minimum a GeForce 6800 graphics card and a 3 GHz CPU.

The game-play is enjoyable, smooth, and scaled to ability; if a character happens to stumble into the wrong cave they will encounter goblins as opposed to a man-eating cave troll. There are two PC versions, standard and collectors, the collector's edition comes with an addition 100 page guide and a "gold" coin from the game. The standard PC version is \$50 U.S., with the Xbox 360 and collec-

tor's edition costing \$60. You can purchase *Oblivion* online at <http://store.yahoo.com/take2store/> or at any local retailer who carries video games.



Cover retrieved online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

## Movie Review: *Jarhead*

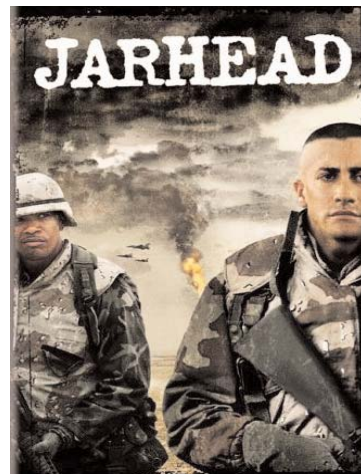
Joe Keith, English A111 student

*Jarhead* is based on the memoirs of Anthony Swofford (a.k.a. Swoff), a third generation Marine Corps enlistee. He was a Sniper and deployed to the Middle East during operation Desert Shield. While in the desert Swoff is faced with incredible boredom and feels on the brink of insanity; hardships that he'd never expected to encounter. Swoff and his fellow marines manage to keep themselves sane, however, with humor and camaraderie.

After a very long time of having nothing to do but train and patrol the desert, they finally get the word to attack, and operation Desert Storm is underway. Swoff and his fellow Marines are then sent to patrol the desert and discover the oil fields that the Iraqi army set ablaze. The pace picks up and the film is non-stop action from that point on. *Jarhead* features Jake Gyllenhaal as Swoff and Academy Award winner Jamie Foxx as Staff Sgt. Sykes. The film was directed by Sam Mendes, who also directed *Road to*

*Perdition* and *American Beauty*. I recommend this movie to anyone who wants to know what was like to be a Marine during the first Iraqi War.

This movie has a running time of 1 hour and 55 minutes, and is rated R. You can currently rent it at any movie rental store such as Blockbuster for around \$4, or purchase it at Fred Meyer or the from the official *Jarhead* website ([www.jarhead-movie.com](http://www.jarhead-movie.com)) for \$19.98.



picture retrieved online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

## Television Series Review: *My Name is Earl*

Zak Smith, English A111 student

Viewers have a moral obligation to tune into *My Name is Earl*, which airs Thursday night at 8 p.m. on NBC (Channel 2); what other sitcom entertains while instilling positive lessons?

Earl, played by Jason Lee, sets out each week to prove the secret to life is fixing all the bad things he has done. He's a single guy a bit rough around the edges, who wins a small lottery. Seconds later he is hit by a car and taken to the hospital. While lying in his hospital bed and in an altered state

of mind, he is introduced to the idea of Karma on television: do good things and good things will happen to you. After leaving the hospital, Earl makes a list of all those he has wronged and vows to atone for his past transgressions.

With the help of his brother Randy (Ethan Suplee) and friend Catalina (Nadine Velazquez), Earl sets out on his endless journey to make up for his delinquent past. Among his challenges: finding a way to make up for

stealing the car of a one-legged-girl.

Earl's ex-wife Joy (Jaime Pressly) finds every possible way to foul up Earl and get his lottery money. Joy is oblivious of the idea of Karma and voluntarily doing thing for others.

The show definitely stands out in the NBC lineup and has acquired many followers like me, who have learned with Earl that Karma is a good thing to have on your side.

## Book Review: *Just Like That 2, Legends and Such.*

Charlotte Nicolet, Journalism student



A new book has arrived on the market that gives us a glimpse of life in Alaska from the mind of DJ Blatchford. Native to Seward, Alaska and current resident of the Kenai Peninsula, Blatchford claims to have graduated with a PhD in "Road of Hard Knocks." With tenacity Blatchford gives us legends in her own creative style. "My Inupiaq side of me comes out,"

explained Blatchford. As a storyteller, Blatchford writes like she's telling the legends to her children. And when read, her legends give the warm feeling of being there, listening to her. "I just let it flow out of my heart to the page," said Blatchford.

Blatchford says she has had the desire to write a book since she was very young, and when she met her husband Joel he encouraged her to write, "just like that," and such has been her life. After her first book *Just Like That, English to Inupiaq*, she says she was inspired to write *Just Like That 2*,  
....Continued on page 8

....Cont. from page 7 *Just Like That 2, Legends and Such.*

which is an entertaining Inupiaq/English collection of legends, recipes, and poetry. Blatchford says the legends in her book are taken from personal stories and those of friends and family.

"I was told that some of my experiences were too unbelievable, so that's how they became legends," explained Blatchford. "My poetry and recipes are, 'and Such,' because they are not the legend, but can be part of it."

Blatchford says she writes on the positive side of life. "I think we have enough scary things in life, so I would rather remember the positive. If you remember the good side of things it catapults you forward," said Blatchford. Her book is available at <http://outskirtspress.com/justlikethat2> for \$16.95 plus shipping.

## Suzie's Café offers great home-style cooking

Marie Oman, English A111 Student

If you like home style cooking and a cozy atmosphere, then Suzie's Café is an excellent choice for lunch or dinner. The staff is great and makes you feel like you have known them forever. As soon as you walk through the door you are greeted with a friendly smile.

Suzie Nelson has owned Suzie's Café for five years and has plenty more ahead of her. She says her favorite part of this business is cooking and working with people. Her menu offerings include halibut, country fried steak, prime rib, steaks, and chicken. Nelson says that in the summer months the ribs are the most popular item on the menu.

When I ate at Suzie's Café, I had the Chicken Deluxe

Burger; it was excellent and very filling for only \$7.95. Eating at Suzie's Cafe makes you feel like you took a great deal of time cooking and then sat down to a nice quiet dinner in a log cabin.

Suzie's is one of the first restaurants you come to when enroute from Anchorage to Soldotna. It's located in the log cabin at Mile 82.7 on the Sterling Highway in Sterling. It is open from 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. every day. So when you feel like eating at home, but not cooking or staying home, I suggest you go give Suzie's Café a try.

## Poetry Corner

### Perfect Teacher Brew By Bill Miller

Once upon a time  
In a land far away,  
God made 'perfect teacher brew'  
As He started out his day.

He knew Bill would need her  
As his college he went through,  
And so He spared not a thing  
As He made 'perfect teacher brew'.

All kinds of special things were added  
As 'special teacher brew' He did make;  
All were mixed with love and care  
And He did this for poor 'ole Bill's sake

The task for Him had been exhausting,  
He'd even worked some overtime,  
And so He made the seventh day a day of rest  
And 'perfect teacher brew' began to shine.

All the angels gazed in wonder  
As He poured 'perfect teacher brew' into a mold;

She shined brighter than a shooting star  
And was worth more than her weight in gold.

Then He sent you down to earth  
For this journey I had started through,  
I was needing help with my college  
And you appeared, 'perfect teacher brew'.

I prize you more than a teacher, with my hurting  
math headaches you know just what to do,  
But this is of no surprise to me  
For you were made of 'perfect teacher brew'.

And so my dear Mrs. P,  
Whether I stay or move away from you,  
I will always love and keep you close  
For you were made with 'perfect teacher brew'.

### Oasis of Silence by Celeste Morningstarr

Pour into these ears  
the honey of your voice.  
Sweet are the dreams,  
my dear companion, rest-  
Seek for me to fill this empty void,  
this marriage of spirit and flesh.

For I am lost upon a sea of tranquility  
I beg you,  
send an oar.

Alone with my despair,  
companions by fear  
seeking no retreat,  
charging against my will,  
chasing after mad dogs and worn out dreams.  
Unused words litter the path,  
fodder for the curious passing by,  
mud soaked eyes searching for a view,  
cradled by the wind,  
speechless as falling snow  
that gives birth to silence,  
this sense of longing  
empties me.

Seeing your shadow  
faintly held against the wall  
its voice growing weak-  
this oasis of silence  
shattered by your single tear.  
You have given me up for dead,  
or worse for having abandoned poetry.

# American Sign Language at KPC

By Star McGlasson, Journalism student

Spring:

Hold a left "C" sign slightly in front of the body, pinky finger side down. Then pass the right hand upward through the opening of the left "C" hand, spreading fingers gently to indicate a "bloom".

Mike Gossman ASL102 student



Here:

Hold both flat hands to the front with palms facing up. The open hands move back in forth in front of the body. Right to right, and left to the left.

Charly Maddox, ASL102 student



Finally:

The forefingers move out from the sides of the mouth in a gesture of triumph

Elliott Hampton, ASL102 student



# Word on Campus: What are your summer plans?

Question and photos by Charles Pulliam, Journalism student



**Beverly Nierstheimer, Student:** "We have two horses and I am looking forward to riding them. I also work through the summer."



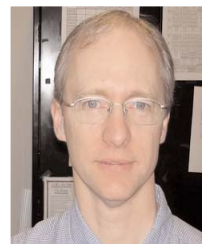
**Shelley Theno, Faculty:** "Learn how to ride a Harley! I'm taking a three-day course and will get licensed."



**Kyle Wisnewski, Student:** "Going to North Dakota."



**Ashley Gravelle, Student:** "Hang out and do a lot of nothing...take it easy and stay away from school!"



**Grant Henderson, Staff:** "Get a job."



**Marge Mullen, Volunteer:** "Work at (Kenai Peninsula College) as long as needed. I have family to visit as well, and work at the Soldotna Homestead Museum."



**Jacque Hill, Staff:** "Go to Washington state, see and spend time with my grand-daughter and extended family. Plant flowers, work in my yard, then sit on my deck and enjoy the sunshine!"

# Out With the Men - An essay of memory

Joe Williams, KPC student

I remember the incident clearly. It is amazing how the mind works that way. You can remember one thing like it was yesterday and still wonder what you had for breakfast.

It was my twelfth birthday; I had just opened my presents: a Winchester 30-30 from my step-dad and a new hunting knife from my mom. I had never been so proud. It was a half an hour later over my favorite sourdough pancakes that dad had said "Pack some clothes we're going hunting." I swear I could have hit the roof. After all the years that I seen him go hunting, I was finally going to get to go with him.

On the way out of town we had stopped to pick up Uncle Sam. Luckily all the gear was in the boat so it was just a matter of backing in and hooking up. It was a long car ride and I could hardly sit still. I had a real gun and was going out with the men.

We then dropped the boat in at Nenana and went down river a ways, then up river for a long way. I was so cold when we got to the camp site, and boy was it dark! After an hour of working by the lantern light we had the wall tent set up and I wasn't cold anymore. As I was getting ready for bed I heard Sam crack a beer while making the comment "Yup, two more hours and hunting season opens." I had to laugh as I crawled into the cot and was asleep in no time.

As I woke, I figured out why dad told me to drink a coke before I went to bed. Oh, man did I have to go! I still think about it these days, wondering if that was dad's way of having an alarm clock. It worked. My rustling around with the sleeping bag and boots woke up the whole tent. Sam had already had the coffee set from

the night before, and told me to light the stove. What, it is barely light out and I'm making coffee! The nerve of some people, oh well, at least they're not hung over.

We went out that morning, my step dad and me, boy did I feel special! A new hunting rifle, a knife by side and all on my birthday too, was it special. I didn't even mind that Dad missed that one moose right by camp. It was laying down facing us, and he said he pulled to the right. When Sam got back from town he had to laugh. I think he was glad dad missed; he would have to have gone back to Nenana and drop it off.

When we got back to camp, we shared the tall tales of our day's events. We laughed as Sam added his comical way to everything. It was then that Sam looked at dad saying "You tell him?" "No," was dad's only reply. Sam disappeared for a moment and came back with a bottle. A bottle of peppermint schnapps. I just stood there saying nothing. Wondering, wondering what they had in store. I didn't have to wonder that long, Sam come over and gave it to me, saying, "Happy Birthday." I was so excited I didn't know what to do. I cracked it and took a swallow. Tasted like a candy cane, a candy cane with fire.

I would like to think that I knew what I was doing that night. I would like to think that I stayed up all night and got to bullshit with the men. I would like to think I was Mr. Cool and had a blast. To this day I still don't know what I did. I was in such a hurry to grow up and be one with the men, I blacked out. This was my first drinking experience and I blacked out.

That brings me to where I am

today, my struggle with alcoholism. I am an alcoholic, though I can't bring myself to attend meetings. I always use the excuse "those whiney people make me want to drink." I have come to the conclusion that I am a drunk who can't drink. I still contribute my share of hangovers to society, like buying a round of drinks when my friends are silly enough to ask me to be the designated driver.

I have since had counseling for drinking. Among other things I killed my liver by the time I was 25. I am now 35 and have been sober for 10 years. Do I have my step-dad to thank for being sober at such an early age? I try to think back on all the years I drank. All the hurt I caused my parents and family. That time they picked me up from the police station for minor consuming, or those other times my sister posted bail when I got arrested for drinking and driving. Not to mention the shame my younger sisters felt as I staggered down the middle of town. How they had to say, "Yes, that's my brother." It was all a learning experience. And I would like to think I've taken the right path. I would like to think that the same people I have caused all that pain know that I never stopped loving them. And through their caring, I have been able to stay sober.

Oh ya, we got two moose that year. I however, never got to shoot once. I stood there gawking too long; my dad took my rifle after emptying his. My first hunting trip with the men and all I caught was a hang over.

## News on the Homer campus

By Ja'hnie Triplett

### Graduation in Homer

Graduation ceremonies for students at the KPC Kachemak Bay Campus will take place at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 3, at the Homer High School Mariner Theater.

### Local student journalist gets job at local high end new paper

Dawn Fitzpatrick, a student in the "Writing for the Media" journalism class, has been hired by the Homer Tribune. "It's a great learning experience and I'm so excited," she said. She has written articles for the college news paper and the Ulu news, for the 2006 Arctic Winter Games.



# Congratulations Graduates of '06!

## These Businesses offer Kenai Peninsula College Student Discounts!

Alaska Tech  
Alaska's Hair lines  
Alyeska Tires  
Body, Mind & Spirit  
Cad-re Corporation  
Copy Cats Printing & Designs  
ETC. BY SU  
KPC Bookstore  
Magic Moments Photography  
Music Box  
Napa Auto Parts  
Odie's Deli Espresso  
Old Town Music  
Pizza Boys  
Soldotna Computer Repair & Sales  
Tammy's Flowers & Gifts

The Haircutters  
The Hobby Stop  
The Videoplace  
Veronica's Cafe  
The Fitness Place  
Healthy Changes  
Ultimate Tan  
Golden Tan  
Call of the Wild Music Din

**More information available from KRC student  
union productions officer Kristina Durrerova at  
262-0339.**

# Travelogue: In Italia all roads lead to Rome!

Kelli Parker, Journalism student

When traveling into Italy, Rome is a good place to start. This city of one million people has incredible art, sculpture, history, culture, and cuisine. Beginning your journey in Rome will let you take it all in, and then lead you to appreciate the small, charming, less populated cities you'll see later.

While waiting for your luggage, you can get your land legs back by relaxing and orienting yourself with Italian signs and people. It is a good idea to arrive with euros in your pocket, as you will need them immediately for transportation and perhaps for an espresso to recharge yourself after your long trip. You can order euros from your bank at the current exchange rate.

Even though almost all credit cards are accepted, be sure to let your bank know that you are traveling out of the



**The Vatican**

country so it doesn't freeze your account in a mistaken effort to protect you. Most Italian banks will exchange money but be sure to always carry your documents (passport).

Most first time travelers to Rome feel a bit confused at the airport while trying to figure out where to go from there or even how to get into the city. Relax and have a seat; when your luggage comes off the conveyor, it will have a colored tag that gives you the proper direction for you to head. No worries, there are signs in both English and Italian. Once through security and customs, look for an information point indicated by an *I*. There you will find maps, hotel information and directions to the train that will take you into the city. This 20-minute train ride is a great time to become best friends with your map if you haven't already done so during your flight over. Forming a plan now is a good idea so you won't be confused when you arrive at the main train termini.

Unless you have a money tree, you might not want to accept a taxi from the train termini. I do suggest taking



**The Colosseum**

metro Linea A or Linea B for a 1.40 euro and transfer to an autobus with the same ticket. If you feel that you need to take a taxi, leaving the termini and walking a block will get you a standard rate and save you at least 40.00 euro.

Hotel rates are about the same as American hotels. If you are on a tight budget, hostels are a great way to go and an opportunity to meet other travelers to exchange good information.

Some hostels have Internet service, but internet/phone businesses offer the best rate at 1.00 euro per hour for Internet and about 5 euro for one hour of telephone. Also, telephone cards can be found at any tabacchi shop for 5.00 euros for five minutes at a public telephone. This is also a good place to purchase stamps. It costs 80 euro cents for a postcard to the States. Posters are everywhere, but your hotel or hostel will usually post them for you.

When your brain is so full of Rome that you cannot look at one more work of art, take a train to another destination. You can make a reservation online or at any travel agent. A seat assignment is highly recommended! Venice and Florence are natural tourist attractions, but there are many small historic towns and villages as well. It is in the quiet unpretentious villages that authentic culture and warmth can be found. Only when you are ready to relax and attempt to blend in is it possible to form lasting friendships. Italians are fun and easy to love. Anyone observing the affection that one Italian gives to another might wonder if America is missing out on something special. My most important advice for the future traveler "When in Rome, do as the Romans do!". Learn the language, be patient and kind. We are all stewards of our home country and state. Ciao, Ciao!