

Prince William Sound Tidings

May 6, 2022

Calendar

May 16
First summer class
session begins

May 27
Maxine & Jesse Whitney
Museum opens for the
season

May 30
PWSC closed for
Memorial day holiday

June 11-19
Last Frontier Theatre
Conference

June 23
Second summer class
session begins

July 4-5
PWSC closed for
Independence day

Congratulations to our Graduating Class of 2022



HONORS: *Cum Laude (3.5-3.75)
**Magna Cum Laude (3.75-3.99)
***Summa Cum Laude (4.0)

Associate of Arts

Liliana Aracely Alfaro**
Dakota Kiev Erik Brown
Kyrcee F. Christensen***
Esther Jade Doucet
Kira Grace Friend*
Nathan Gabriel Hendrix
Jared Dean Humphrey
Amber R. Major
Terrence Perron McCabe**
Janae Chanel Sonkowsky
Danielle Marie Tapp*
Kira Michelle Walters
Ambrosia Morel Woodgate***

Associate of Applied Science Outdoor Leadership

Rafael Alejandro Alfaro*
Andrew Michael Bradley**
Kallen Michael Fitzpatrick*
Amanda Nicole Wygant***

Occupational Endorsement Marine Service Technician

Kaleb P. Callahan - Kodiak
Campus
Darren A. Kalmakoff
Brinton Michael Hoke
Julian D. Rice
Takoda Elijah Vermillion
Samuel Walker
Garrett W. Wright - Kodiak
Campus

Occupational Endorsement Millwright

Cameron J. Bowsen
Nathan Brown
Jahmal X. Clark
Ethan Michael Clupper
Evan G. Clupper
Nathan Gabriel Hendrix
Noah Scott Land
Wyatt Mehlberg
Alain M. Stahley

Occupational Endorsement Web Engineering

Sean Martin Conway
Skylar P. Drayer
Sklyer Kim
Donna Matrician
Noelle M. Valentine
Kaila W. Wildermuth

Academic Achievement Awards

Certified Nursing Aide

Dustin P. Kelone
Ashleah Maranville
Megan Shugluk
Carrie Stock

General Education Development

Christopher Santillana

United States Citizenship

Yuliana Salado

A group of people, including a woman in a white polo shirt and blue jeans, are practicing CPR on a mannequin lying on the floor. They are in a room with wooden paneling and other people in the background.

Location: PWSC Room 102

PWSC

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PWSC

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Natural Resources Technician

Fall 2022 Academy:
Aug 29 to Nov 18, 2022

The PWSC Natural Resources Technician program is a 12-week intensive experience that covers the knowledge and skills needed for an entry level position in a natural resources career.



Tuition, fees, and housing for qualifying high school students covered by the DEED CRRSA Act grant!

NRT Core Courses:

Biota of Alaska: Selected Topics
Conservation of Natural Resources
Earth Systems: Elements of Physical Geography

Complete one of the following:

Fundamentals of Oral Communication
Small Group Communication
Introduction to College Writing
Writing Across Contexts

Electives (4 additional credits)

First Aid and CPR for Professionals Basic
Workplace Safety
Wilderness First Aid
Strategies for College Success
Backpack Alaska
Industrial Technology Internship

Interested?
Visit our
website!



bit.ly/pwscnrt

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Contact: Shannon Stites | smstites@alaska.edu | 907-834-1632

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Kayak Self-Rescue Roll

Saturday, May 21

Time slots every half hour- 9-11:30 a.m. & 1-4 p.m.

\$10 registration

Have you been kayaking for a while and have always wanted to learn the self-rescue roll?

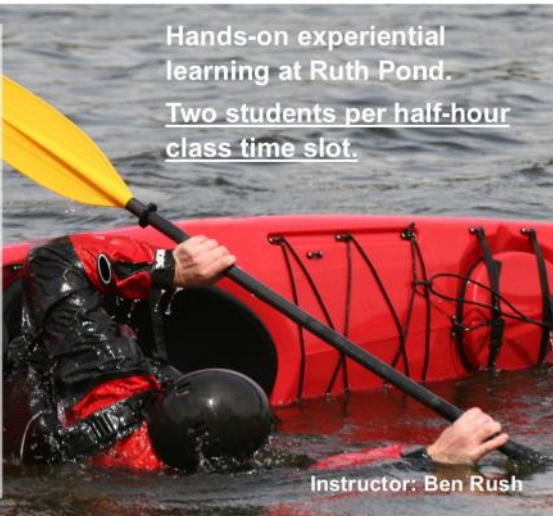
Come experience the ultimate self-rescue technique to give you more confidence with all of your kayaking skills.

Bring your own kayak. Some kayaks, paddles will be provided.

You MUST bring your own PFD and drysuit/wetsuit.

Hands-on experiential learning at Ruth Pond.

Two students per half-hour class time slot.



Instructor: Ben Rush

Registration required at <https://pwsc.asapconnected.com>

907-834-1600

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VALDEZ PARKS & RECREATION

OPEN ARCHERY

In partnership with PWSC Archery Club

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

MAY 5TH - 26TH

7:00 - 8:30PM

HHES GYMNASIUM

OPEN TO AGES 7+ (UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN)

SOME EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR USE.
PARTICIPANTS MAY BRING THEIR OWN.
CROSSBOWS ARE NOT PERMITTED.

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World Migratory Bird Day

Dim the Lights for Birds at Night



Ranger Led Walk and Talk

May 14, 2022 from 1pm-3 pm

Copper Center Visitor Center

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Join National Park Service Ranger Diane and Katie Bobowski (Prince William Sound Community College, Copper Basin Coordinator) for a talk about migratory birds, night light pollution and migratory routes. Then take a walk with them around Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve's Copper Center Visitor Center trails, identifying and counting birds. At the end of the walk, share bird stories and learn about some year-round bird neighbors from Ranger Diane in her presentation, "Raving about Ravens."

For more information contact Katie: (907)822-3673 or ksbobowski@alaska.edu



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www.ValdezAK.gov/Parks



World Migratory Bird Day in the Americas
is coordinated by Environment for the Americas

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Outdoor Leadership Capstone Voyage

by Vicki Heisser and Ben Rush



This year, the capstone class project for PWSC outdoor leadership students is a 14-day kayak trip from Whittier to Valdez. According to Dr. Benjamin Rush, Assistant Professor of Outdoor Leadership, this is a student-planned and led expedition. Rush explained, "The students planned our route, prepared the equipment, and purchased over 385 pounds of food. They put a lot of time into the planning of this expedition. We'd like to give special thanks to Dan O'Connor, Shannon Stites, and Jay Stevens for making this happen. It's definitely a team effort."

To participate in this class, students have taken Alaska Backpacking, Wilderness First Responder, and Beginning Sea kayaking. Students will rely on the skills they have learned and acquired through their coursework.

Students began their adventure Sunday, May 1, and return to Valdez on May 14. You can follow along and track their movements: share.garmin.com/pwsc and the password: Alaska123!

PWSC Plays Well With Others

Did you know that Prince William Sound College (PWSC) and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve partner to offer an internship program that helps students and the community? Every summer, a PWSC Outdoor Leadership student has the opportunity to work closely with park staff to learn about park planning, interpretation of law and policy, and basic land management principles.

Joe Kay, a graduate of Prince William Sound College, was an intern in the program in the summer of 2020.

"We went out towards Slana in the North District of the park and conducted a condition assessment of an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) trail," Kay said. "We were using a handheld Trimble GPS unit to collect condition data along the trail."

Kay now has a job as a lead guide with Alaska Guide Company, where he uses skills he developed as an intern including what it takes to maintain trails and appreciate the environment. PWSC and the National Park Service (NPS) also work together throughout the year on local community initiatives with the college's Copper Basin Extension Center. This collaboration includes other local area governmental organizations, non-profits, and tribal organizations, and provides opportunities for youth and community members.

"We all care about this amazing place we call home," said Carrie Wittmer, the team lead for the Division of Interpretation & Education at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. "It takes work to keep this place beautiful, wild, and thriving. No one organization has the staff, money, or time to do everything that needs to be done. The way we get things done is by sharing ideas, working together, and leveraging the resources we can contribute."



Photo courtesy of Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve staff.

Safety First



In PWSC's Introduction to Safety & Risk class this semester, students spent a couple of class periods learning about the safety and risk considerations of rappelling through student-led presentations. Rappelling is a fundamental technical outdoor skill, but one that has a history of accidents in the outdoor industry when not applied according to best practices. This learning experience was a follow-up to the students' recent Beginning Ice Climbing course, as rappelling is a future step in the students' learning progression to become competent and safe climbers.



In the first photo, instructor Mat Brunton discusses common anchor and rappelling errors that also transgress climbing ethics by causing unnecessary wear and tear on communal equipment like anchors and rappel rings.

In the second photo, students practice anchor and rappel setup, through trial and error, using limited materials.

Newly Minted Millwright

It is a wonderful time in Alain Stahley's life right now. Alain just graduated from PWSC with an Occupational Endorsement Certificate (OEC) in Millwright and he is employed as a millwright at Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company.

For Alain, the millwright program and having a career as a millwright is an excellent fit.

"I've always enjoyed industrial mechanics, working with my hands, and learning something new. There's a need for millwrights, lots of job opportunities, and job satisfaction, too."

Alain took advantage of the Millwright Scholarship Program offered through the partnership between PWSC and Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company. He applied, interviewed, and visited the job site to see what it was all about.

"It was good to visit the job site because I wasn't sure what I was getting into, and it was great! Everyone treats you like a family member and I like that."

Congratulations, Alain!



Honor and Recognition

University of Alaska Chancellor Sean Parnell presented PWSC Director Dan O'Connor on Wednesday with a certificate of appreciation from the Alaska State Legislature. This certificate honors Dr. O'Connor for his many contributions and service to Prince William Sound College and the University of Alaska Anchorage. During the nine years he has served here, Dan has expanded or enriched college opportunities like Millwright, Marine Services Program, Nursing, Valdez Theatre Conference, and Dual Enrollment for high school students in Valdez, Glennallen, and Cordova.

With this certificate, the Legislature further recognizes Dr. O'Connor's leadership in strengthening ties with community and industry partnerships, such as Valdez Fisheries Development Association, Alyeska Pipeline Services Company, Providence Alaska, Edison Chouest Offshore, Valdez City Schools, Chugach Corporation, and the US Coast Guard.

Chancellor Parnell had this to say about Dan:

"In my years of service, I have been around many leaders. It is extremely rare to find one like Dan who so fully pours every effort he makes into making the people around him feel valued and part of something larger and meaningful. His love for the people of PWSC and the larger surrounding communities is so evident and has positively impacted many. There will be, I am sure, many tributes and thanks given to Dan as he departs his position, and I can speak as his supervisor and colleague now and say that I will truly miss him!"

Many thanks to Representative Rauscher and Senator Shower for sponsoring the legislative citation, and to the entire Alaska Legislature for recognizing Dan's important contributions to the college and community. Further thanks to Weston Eiler, Executive Officer and Director of Government Relations, who worked with the legislative offices to get the legislative citation voted through the legislature.

Congratulations, Dr. O'Connor, on your retirement!





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Watch the 2022 Commencement ceremony at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5l5m8_vj0Y



"There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in."

-Graham Greene