

Prince William Sound Tidings

July 8, 2022

Calendar

July 8
Withdrawal deadline

July 11
Payment deadline, \$125
late fee assessed

July 22
\$175 late fee assessed
to those with balance.
Summer graduation
application deadline

August 4
Grades available in
UAOnline

August 29
Instruction begins.
Add/drop period begins
Registration begins for
senior citizens using
tuition waiver

September 5
PWSC closed for Labor
Day holiday

Congratulations Dr. O'Connor!

By Vicki Heisser



After serving as the president of PWSC since 2014, this July Dr. Dan O'Connor will say goodbye to the college as he enters retirement. Though he was initially at the college for a 6-month interim position, 6 months turned into 8 wonderful years. Under Dr. O'Connor's leadership, PWSC joined with the University of Alaska, Anchorage system, and his steadfast efforts during his time here helped to grow and enrich the college in many ways.

Dr. O'Connor expanded the college by growing programs like Millwright, Marine Services Program, Nursing, Valdez

Theatre Conference, and Dual Enrollment for high school students in Valdez, Glennallen, and Cordova.

Not only did he help to enrich these programs, but his leadership also strengthened ties with the community through partnerships with area industries, 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.

Over these past years, he invested himself in the community and in the workplace, and the faculty and staff will be forever grateful for all he has done.

PWSC Assistant Director, Student Affairs, Shannon Stites, describes Dr. O'Connor as "the heart of Prince William Sound College."

"He has helped expand our dual credit offerings and has partnered with the superintendents at the school district to allow or to approach the city for funding for dual credit programs a hundred percent and continues to do that year after year so that our high school students can receive college credit for free, which is huge. During the fiscal crisis that we've had through the UA system and uncertainties, he has always counted the employees as number one. He's personally invested in each of his employees. He has always had that personal touch. He knows all of our families... He is much more than a boss."

Being "much more than a boss," Dr. O'Connor has also invested his time in the community of Valdez.

Stites shares, "He volunteers at the food bank. At the senior center, he goes and delivers breakfast or volunteers his time over there. He is at every single basketball game and different sporting event throughout the school district. He is at city meetings. Anywhere the presence of Prince William Sound College needs to be, he is there."

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Assistant Professor of Outdoor Leadership, Dr. Benjamin Rush, mimics Stites's sentiments when it comes to Dr. O'Connor's impact on the college and community.

"I appreciate Dan O'Connor and all the support he has given me during my time with the Outdoor Leadership program. There have been many changes with our program, and his support is the first step in making it happen.

Everyone that has ever worked with Dr. Dan O'Connor will tell you he is the 'absolute best' person to have on your team. Dan has integrity, honesty, humility, and clear focus. He is a strategic planner and believes in teamwork. Much of what we have built these past many years is a direct result of [Dr. O'Connor's] leadership, vision, and hard work."

As the (former) assistant to the president, perhaps no one has worked more closely with Dr. O'Connor than Dawson Moore. For Moore, working with O'Connor has been an amazing experience.

"I've had a lot of bosses in my life. Dan is my favorite, and it's not even close. From his comfortable demeanor to his frank way of speaking to his level-headedness... I love him and am grateful for the steadying leadership he's provided PWSC since he got here."

Along with Moore, Stites, and Rush, everyone at PWSC is forever grateful to Dr. O'Connor for what he has done for the college and the community over the past 8 years. He's left an indelible mark that will not soon be forgotten. We wish him well and know he will continue to do great things as he enters this next chapter of life.

PWSC congratulates Shannon Stites and Cherise Yidodelno Beatus on their recent promotions! Shannon is our new Assistant Director of Student Affairs. Cherise is our new Academic and Student Affairs Specialist. Both dedicated employees have worked hard to achieve these well-earned promotions. PWSC is truly fortunate.



Greetings from the Museum



Blake Morrison, a recent Valdez High School graduate, is spending this summer working at PWSC's Maxine and Jesse Whitney Museum and getting ready for college this fall.

Blake shared, "I've worked here for two years now. I like this job... it's interesting to talk with people from all over the country and world...hearing what they have to say and about their different experiences...how they relate to weird things around the museum." This fall, Blake plans to attend Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA, and pursue a degree in cybersecurity.

"It's an interesting and promising field. It's something I think I'd be good at."

While attending college, Blake plans to join the U.S. Air Force ROTC program.

Best of luck, Blake!

Stop by the Maxine & Jesse Whitney Museum this summer to see the collection and visit Blake (and Bob, the moose!) The museum is open Monday- Saturday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Admission is free, and donations are appreciated.

Summer Education Updates



PWSC hosted 80 Alaskan teachers for 8 different 'for Teachers' courses this May and June, with an additional 'for Teachers' course in Environmental Science coming up in August already full.

19 high school students from all over Alaska attended PWSC's National Science Foundation summer camp, 'Build the Web'. Students took a college-level computing class called TECH A120: Commercial Web Page Design, taught by Associate Professor of Computing/Information Technology, Dr. Steve Johnson. They learned to make mobile-ready websites using HTML5 and CSS3, during both classroom and outdoor activities. They also had the opportunity to tour the Solomon Gulch Fish Hatchery with Hatchery Manager Rob Unger.



PWSC was awarded a \$686,000 grant to ramp up our Marine Service Technology 12-week intensive program to now include four 12-week intensive programs (Marine Service Technology, Natural Resource Technician, Emergency Responder, and computing) for the next two years. It is hoped that this pilot program can be expanded into a larger vision that will see 150 or more high school students participating in one 12-week intensive dual enrollment program each year. Stay tuned for further information on this exciting endeavor.



Alumna Spotlight

Throughout high school, Kaylee Rodriguez struggled academically. In her own words, "I had academic difficulties which led me to believe I was inadequate." It was coming to PWSC that gave her a "fresh start" and paved the way to academic success and a degree.

"With the support from my instructors and determination on my part, I was able to set and achieve academic goals. It took a lot of studying and perseverance ...

PWSC was an educational adventure... When I graduated from PWSC, I graduated with not only a degree but with experiences, friendships, and a better version of myself."

For Kaylee, her degree from PWSC was the start of her academic journey. Kaylee shared, "I am now more than halfway through the second semester of my junior year of nursing school. I will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) nursing degree in May of 2023. I can confidently say I would not be here if I hadn't attended PWSC."



PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE.

Located at:
303 Lowe Street, PO Box 97, Valdez, Alaska 99686
1976 Aurora Drive, PO Box 730, Glennallen 99588
100 Fishermen Avenue, PO Box 1248, Cordova 99574
and online
www.pwsc.alaska.edu
907-834-1600

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Beginning Wine Appreciation

Saturday, July 16, 1-5 p.m. \$95.00

Topics Covered:
- A brief history of wine and wine regions
- What is wine and the wine making process
- Terminology
- Red wines vs White wines
- Wine Tasting (Basic concepts)
- Reading wine labels
- Tasting exercises
- Basic food pairing concepts
Instructor: Viticulturalist, Dave Roman

Register at https://continuingstudies.pwsc.alaska.edu
21+ All students must show id.



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Kick Off Valdez Gold Rush Days
at the
Golden Opportunity Luncheon
Wednesday, August 3, Noon
Featuring:
- Crowning of Gold Rush Days Royalty
- Golden Rock Awards for Gardening Excellence
- Entertainment
- Refreshments



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Want to Become a CNA?

Want to become a Certified Nurse Aide? Providence Valdez Medical Center promotes Certified Nurse Aide trainees/students by offering a dynamic program into healthcare. Providence offers full tuition reimbursement to students who become employees of PVMC, provided that they successfully become certified within 120 days of completing the class. The next class begins September 12, and space is limited, so register soon!



There are other requirements, details, and costs in addition to tuition which must be paid by the student. So find out more by contacting a PWSC advisor at 907-834-1600 or pwsc.student.services@alaska.edu, and visit https://providence-valdez-jobs/ Look for CNA Trainee position.

“Courage is knowing what not to fear.” -Plato