

Many Memories of Kodiak College Over 40 Years

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Jay Barrett/KMXT

Kodiak

College is wrapping up its year-long 40th Anniversary celebration with an open house on Friday. At the event will be many people who were there at the inception of what was then Kodiak Community College. Two of them, Bev Horn and Marion Johnson were on KMXT's Talk of the Rock Tuesday, along with Sue Jeffrey and current college director, Barb Bolson.

At the

time, the college was conceived by the Kodiak Island Borough School District, and Horn and Johnson were members of the school board. The board voted to create the community college, and voted to select the first director. Johnson remembered how they settled on Carolyn Floyd - who later became mayor - and how the college grew in those early years:

-- (College 1 48 sec "We were asked to ... job of designing the campus.")

The first

year the school was in operation, 1968, students took classes at Kodiak High School, which is now the middle school. There were 95 students spread among eight classes. Now there are hundreds of students taking classes that fill an entire catalog. And according to Jeffrey and Bolson, the budget has also changed dramatically in that time:

-- (College 2 30 sec "I think it was 1970 ... couldn't pay one of our lab tutors.")

Horn said

then, just like today, there are a lot of immigrant students taking English as

a second language:

-- (College 3 :35 sec "I
can remember when ... technologically focused.")

Jeffrey
recalled some of the more practical voc-ed classes she took:

-- (College 4 48 sec "You
know, it's funny ... never get tired of them.")

Bolson
added that the academics of the school have also advanced, and that the nursing
program boasts a 100-percent hire rate among its graduates.

The open
house at Kodiak College will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday afternoon, and then
an evening program with the University of Alaska string ensemble performing.
University President Mark Hamilton will also be in attendance, and other locals
with long-time ties to the college will reminisce. Best of all, it's all open
to the public.

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