

Design Alaska Family Christmas Party

Design Alaska had its annual Family Christmas Party on Monday, December 21. Midnight Sun Catering did a fantastic job catering the event. The Headbolt Heaters kept it lively and full of holiday spirit by playing Christmas music in the lobby. The food was delicious and there were plenty of desserts to go around. Employees, their significant others, and their children all came to celebrate the holidays, and the turn out was a huge success.



Family Christmas Party Continued..



President's Corner

Q's, X's and Delivery Days

Many of us follow the project schedule statistics closely to track projects completed, quality reviews and X days met. Now that we have moved into a new year, I thought I would give everyone a little summary of our 2019 performance. We completed 124 projects in 2019, which is over two a week where term contract projects were 1/3 of the overall projects completed. We frequently say that term contract work is the base of the organization and one of the reasons we are consistently successful.

We made 264 design submittals, which accounts to more than one every business day! In the scheduling meeting each Friday, we track how we do at getting those project delivered on schedule. For 2019 we achieved a 94% success rate. This result is consistent from prior years and shows that we value meeting our deadlines to our clients.

Since 2015 we have also been tracking our internal quality reviews (Q's) before delivery. The quality review includes a peer review by each discipline and overall PM review. We have reached an all time high of 91% for 2019. Congratulations on making peer review a priority. We should always try to achieve 100% as we continue to refine our practices and planning. The *59 task code can help us see how much time it takes to do reviews and help plan enough time for 100% success for the future.

The 'X' day is a self-set deadline that we use so Production has enough time to review, do formatting, and compile a document set. We achieved the X day at 69%, which was similar to previous years. We have also started tracking if Project Submittal Workup Sheets (PSWS) are completed for projects before the X day to account in the X day tracking. In 2020, we should all strive on getting the PSWS done about one week before a deadline so disciplines can focus their efforts on preparing the correct deliverables, and Production is able to prepare and compile the documents efficiently for PM review and on-time client delivery.

Before we remove a project off the schedule and tally it as a completed project, the last task the PM must complete is the Description and Role. We are doing really well at getting them done in a timely manner which has greatly improved our marketing descriptions and general overall records of the 124 projects we completed. This is a good example of a small change that we made that has had enormous paybacks.

Let's continue keeping up the good work of turning out quality projects on time to our customers and bringing up those stats for 2020!

~ Chris Miller P.E

President, Design Alaska



Everyone needs a break to play some good ole Rock 'Em Sock 'Em every once in a while! Pictured Left is Chris Miller, the President of Design Alaska and Leah Monego's son, Easton, getting a quick game in!

Design Alaska Ice Sculpture

Our ice sculpture was produced by Heather and Steve Brice. Heather is a nine-time World Ice Sculpting Champion at the World Ice Art Championships, and has received multiple People's Choice, Artist Choice, and Governor's awards. She has 3 Gold medals from Lake Louise Alberta, and competed in the Cultural Olympiad in Turino, Italy 2006. Heather has been carving ice since early 1999. Heather created an ice sculpture for the 2019 Design Alaska Holiday Concert.

Steve is a N.I.C.A. Certified Master Ice Sculptor and 15-time World Ice Sculpting Champion. Steve was introduced into the ice sculpting world in 1990. He holds four Gold medals in Lake Louise, Alberta and has competed in the past three Olympic Ice Sculpting Competitions, Nagano, Japan 1998; Salt Lake City, Utah 2002; and in Turino, Italy in 2006. Steve has revolutionized Ice Sculpting as it is known today with his techniques and revolutionary tools. Steve is the lead sculptor and primary designer of the Aurora Ice Museum at Chena Hot Spring Resort.



WELCOME Jennifer Davis!

Please join me in welcoming Jennifer Davis to the Design Alaska team. She is our new Accounting Technician. Jennifer is a life long Fairbanksian who is happy to be working in such a family friendly environment. She has been married to her partner, Larry, for almost eleven years. They have two children, Jensen and Louis as well as a dog named Mr. Miyagi and a cat name Jazbo. Some of her favorite hobbies include cooking and baking. She loves to try out new and different recipes. She shares Fairbanks' love of Thai food and hopes to retire in Hawaii or some place similar!

A Few of the Remote Employees Came to Visit

Pictured Below:
Baby Ava Steele
and mom Emily
Steele



Mitchell O'Bryant (top left), Pete Jacobsen (top middle), Emily Steele (top right), and Florian Kienle (bottom middle) were all recently working in the office at the same time. This hardly ever happens, so it really added a real liveliness to the office atmosphere.

Blake and Rowland Give Us a Lesson on Traveling

Design Alaska employees, Rowland Powers and Blake Burley have both recently taken trips abroad. They put together a lunchbyte to share pictures and stories from their time spent away. Blake went to Magnolia and Rowland visited Uganda. Design Alaska ordered Geraldo's pizza for the employees to enjoy while we listened and learned.



What fad or trend do you hope comes back?	
Robin Rader	Bell Bottoms—not that I would wear them, as they were not very warm in the winter. Streaking—not that I would look.....
Eliza Cink	Top Hats; or hats in general. They are such a great accessory, and everyone looks good in a top hat!
Chris Miller	Prioritizing talking to people in person instead of just electronic correspondence. I like having face-to-face meetings with people and the relationship that it builds.
Jack Wilbur	I long for a return to statesmanship and bipartisanship in our legislative bodies.
Blake Burley	The Pizza Hut buffet and lava lamps.
Leah Monego	Butterfly clips—I was obsessed with them and used to line my whole head with them.
Anonymous	Razor Phones



Recycling By: Elizabeth Johnston



Consider adding some work recycling resolutions to your year in 2020. New year, new decade, new habits.

1. Refuse plastic water bottles at work events and bring your own bottle.
2. Reduce your printing by optimizing your printing settings.
3. Reuse paper for scratch.
4. Recycle better. We have onsite paper, plastic, aluminum, steel, battery, paper towel, egg carton, plastic bag, and toilet paper roll recycling. I bet at least one of those surprises you. Sort and clean your items as needed.
5. Replace plastic with actual silverware and wash it afterwards.





Wellness

By: Elizabeth Johnston

“It’s up to you today to start making healthy choices. Not choices that are just healthy for your body, but healthy for your mind.”
 — Steve Maraboli, [Unapologetically You: Reflections on Life and the Human Experience](#)

20 DAY MENTAL WELLNESS CHALLENGE

You'll never change your life until you change something you do daily.
 The secret of your success is found in your daily routine.

<p>Go to bed 1 hour earlier than usual</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 1</p>	<p>Journal 10 things you're grateful for</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 2</p>	<p>Take a walk outdoors</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 3</p>	<p>Call someone you love</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 4</p>	<p>De-clutter your room or desk</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 5</p>
<p>Take a social media sabbatical</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 6</p>	<p>Make a list of short term goals</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 7</p>	<p>Make the most epic, creative salad you can think of</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 8</p>	<p>Slow down. Sit & watch the sunset</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 9</p>	<p>Get rid of 5 things you never use</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 10</p>
<p>Enjoy the sun. Eat lunch outside</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 11</p>	<p>Unsubscribe from unnecessary emails</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 12</p>	<p>Send an encouraging text to 5 people</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 13</p>	<p>Wake up 30 minutes earlier to pray</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 14</p>	<p>Plan a tea/smoothie date with a friend</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 15</p>
<p>Go the entire day without complaining</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 16</p>	<p>Buy yourself flowers</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 17</p>	<p>Make time for a wholesome breakfast</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 18</p>	<p>Do one thing you've been putting off</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 19</p>	<p>Don't overthink. Practice being present</p> <hr/> <p>DAY 20</p>

January ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Table Massages / Rowland & Blake Lunchbyte	9	10	11
12	13 Birthday Cake Celebration	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Table Massages	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Managers' Meeting	31	

January Birthdays

Eliza Cink	January 21, 1986	
Ciarin Connor	January 27, 1996	
Emily Winfield	January 29, 1986	

February Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 5—Table Massages
 Monday, February 17— Birthday Cake Celebration
 Wednesday, February 19—Table Massages
 Thursday, February 27— Managers' Meeting

Design Alaska Anniversaries

Florian Kienle	19th Anniversary	1/10/2001
Jennifer Centers	1st Anniversary	1/28/2019



Dantasia James and Brittany Green enjoying some hot Orange Spiced Apple Cider when the temperature plummeted to 40 degrees below 0!