

STEM Night at Pearl Creek Elementary School

Ben Mildon and Rowland Powers brought the FLIR infrared camera to the Pearl Creek Elementary School STEM night. STEM night is an opportunity for local businesses and agencies to introduce topics of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to local children.

The event was a great success for both the Pearl Creek School and for the Design Alaska Booth. The gymnasium was full of children, parents, and interesting booths from around the community. There was a constant flow of curious dancing children and many experimental parents in front of the infrared camera.

Students were most interested in the heat profile of their bodies, but the infrared camera was also used to investigate the building mechanical system, and to locate the exterior stud walls and a steel braced frame in the gymnasium. Participants experimented with their cold water bottles, a solid steel ball, and parkas and hats. Ben brought his Sterling Engine, where the heat differential could be seen across the engines hot and cold sinks, and there was endless curiosities by using the infrared camera to view the other featured activities of the STEM night. Thanks for volunteering Rowland and Ben!!



President's Corner

State of Alaska Government

Design Alaska employees participate and support a majority of state technical societies that relate to our industry. Many years ago, the various societies decided to create a political lobbying group that addresses all of the industry interests. The Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) has representatives from Survey, Architecture, Interiors, Landscape and all Engineering disciplines. Each year this group decides what statewide issues need to be addressed in Juneau by the Governor or the Legislature as part of a legislative session.

Part of the lobbying effort is an in-person legislative fly-in to Juneau by members from all the represented groups to talk to the Governor and Legislature to build relationships and advocate our message. I participated this year with 20 others, including Samuel Mitchell who was representing the Student Chapter of ASCE. I personally attended eight meetings with legislators to discuss our points. Jack Wilbur attended a similar fly in with the Alaska State Chamber.

Topics APDC was advocating for included:

- Increased spending on Capital Projects to deal with aged and failing infrastructure (bridges, roads, schools, public buildings, etc.).

- Increased maintenance funding to keep what we have working well and serving the people.

- K-12 and UAF education funding for STEM programs.

- Earthquake improvements to public school buildings to protect the school users including a community shelter after a large event. Identify all the schools that need improvements to meet modern code for seismic events.

- Change policy to allow the AELS board to travel to the major communities for meetings. The AELS board is paid for solely out of our license fees and is not paid for by the general public.

The conversations quickly turned to 'how do we pay for it?' APDC's position was that the State should get more revenue across a broad cross section of the population, and we should do it now rather than continue to spend the state savings. We encouraged things like changing the permanent fund formula (~\$1000 at this time), income tax, state sales tax or payroll tax (paid based on each check, not yearly income total). We understand it is difficult to bring back old revenue measures, but we need to all contribute to government to have the community that we desire.

Many legislators seemed to agree that a change to the permanent fund formula and/or tax would meet the needs of the state now, but they did not think that enough of the legislators would be willing to vote for it and the governor may veto it. They believed in this election year, that the legislature would vote to spend more of the savings and push the hard work off to the next group of elected officials to raise revenue.

I personally want to see action in Juneau now to address our revenue needs to fund the government we desire. I would be happy to discuss with any of you, and I encourage you to think about the big picture and participate in state and local government to influence our future.

~ *Chris Miller P.E*

President, Design Alaska

What does riding a red bike or standing in front of the garage holding a piece of paper have to do with Design Alaska? In order to answer that question, please follow this [link](#) to an informative and enlightening article written by Don Hopkins.



Great Land Sounds Chorus Valentine's Performance

The Great Land Sounds Barbershop Chorus performed a few songs for Design Alaska employees as a sweet Valentine's Day serenade in the lobby last Friday, February 14.



Final Touches Make All the Difference

Thanks to the talented Sabrina Davis, Leah Monego and Ciarin Connor: the ladies restroom got a serious makeover! It looks fantastic and they all did a great job with the decorating after the restroom itself was updated. Check it out below!



What is the best piece of advice you have been given? By whom?	
Marina Jones	“No one can fix you but yourself.” Came from my mom in a not so great time in my life. It took myself and time to snap out of the situation and she knew that even superwoman mom couldn’t help this time around. It is the best advice I can give to others when they are reaching out to someone to try and fix their problems when really, you need to admit to change within yourself first. Pretty deep stuff but very true and I now see it in a lot of situations especially in the fitness world.
Brittany Green	A good friend of mine always used to tell me, “be careful who you tell things to, because when you do, it gives them the opportunity to judge your situation when you may just be looking for an ear to listen” I have a tendency to be a complete open book, so this piece of advice has always acted as a little reminder to be mindful of that.
Jim Godfrey, II	The best advice I have ever gotten was from my wife. She has a policy on which she lives her life, which is do no harm. She feels that at the end of the day if she can look back and know that she has not cost anybody any kind of dis ease, then she can be proud of the person she is today.
William Guevremont	“Assume all information received is incorrect” by Principle of Architecture firm in San Diego I worked for (David J. Terry).
Don Hopkins	“Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself.” - Eleanor Roosevelt
Chris Miller	“Solve the problem....then figure out the blame.” - Jack Wilbur
Peter Jacobsen	“If work was fun, they wouldn’t have to pay you to do it.” This is a direct quote- or close-from Chris Miller, circa 2000. It wasn’t directed at me, but to a snotty college intern who found the tasks he was assigned objectionable and was throwing a tantrum. I overheard this conversation and it stuck with me. I provide this advice frequently to empathize with friends and colleagues who are in a bad mood because of work. Chris didn’t, of course, mean it as a universal truth for all work, all the time. But at times, work can stink. Chris’s advice pops in my head to temper my foul mood when this is the case, to keep my eye on the ball and differentiate between duty and having fun: I’m not paid to have fun, but to provide valuable services to our clients. Fortunately, there is a lot of fun to be had working at Design Alaska.
Mary Sue Dates	Before you say or do anything, put yourself in the other persons shoes and ask yourself; how would I take it if (whatever it is) was coming my way, and do not give advice that you would not take yourself. From: Living Life
Lyle Axelarris	Whatever you do in life, make sure it makes you happy. - Dad



Wellness

By: Elizabeth Johnston



STARTING MARCH 1ST

WATER

YOU WAITING FOR?

It's time to drink up!

Many of us do not drink as much water as we should on a daily basis. Drinking water is one of the easiest ways to ensure that your body is happy and healthy. That is why we are challenging you to drink at least 8 cups of water each day for the next six weeks!

Drinking more water will energize you, help your body and brain function optimally, and naturally reduce your daily calorie intake. The amazing health benefits of water are endless!

So, water you waiting for? Dive right in to a healthier and happier you! Sign-up sheets will be in each break room. Participants will receive a timer-bottle to help them build their healthy habit.

Stay tuned for more information.





Recycling

By: Elizabeth Johnston



This February Recycling To-do will take you *less than 10-minutes*

Reducing your Junk Mail

Step 1: Register with the Mail preference Service of the Direct Marketing Association in the "Do not mail" category. It costs \$2 for 10 years. <https://dmachoice.thedma.org/register.php>

Step 2: Register to get off the list mortgage, credit card, and insurance companies use. This website is run by the major credit reporting agencies and lets you opt out for 5-years at a time online so even if you did it once, you may need to do it again. You can opt out permanently through the mail. <https://www.optoutprescreen.com/>

Step 3: Take each piece of junk mail as a To Do item and don't recycle that Lands End catalog until you go to their website and unsubscribe.



On Tuesday, February 4, 2020, two representatives from United Way of the Tanana Valley received a donation check for their organization. The Design Alaska employee donations, along with Design Alaska's company match and corporate contribution, generously totaled \$ 48,880.24.

"Thank you" to all who so generously contributed.



February 2020 ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Table Massages	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Engineers Week						
			Massages Career Fair			Engineers Banquet
23	24	25	26	27 Managers' Meeting	28	29

February Birthdays

Benjamin Mildon	February 6	
Jennifer Centers	February 17	

Design Alaska Anniversaries

Ciarin Connor	1st Anniversary	Feb. 4, 2019
Rowland Powers	2nd Anniversary	Feb. 12, 2018
McKinley Putnam	4th Anniversary	Feb. 9, 2016
Eliza Cink	6th Anniversary	Feb. 24, 2014

March Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 4—Table Massages
Wednesday, March 18—Table Massages
Thursday, March 26— Managers' Meeting



PIONEERS OF PROGRESS

LOCATION Wedgewood Hotel
212 Wedgewood Drive

DATE February 22, 2020

TIME Social 5:30-6:30
Banquet 6:30-9:30

PRICE \$55 regular, \$20 students

SPEAKER Cathy Cahill, Director
Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration

RSVP by Friday, February 14, 2020
Call 452-1241
Email EWEEK@DESIGNALASKA.COM

DISCOVER ENGINEERS WEEK
FEBRUARY 16-22, 2020