Season’s Greetings!!!!

The Winter 2012 edition. The Fall 2012 Semester is about wrapped up and we are heading into the winter and holiday season. So far we are not on a record setting pace for snow....but it sure has been cold. This fall the Snow Team received the Chancellor’s Excellence Award for Large Teams. The award recognized last winter’s snow management performance during a record snowfall year for Anchorage. The EHS staff were also on the awards podium earning the Chancellor’s Excellence Award for Small Teams. Both teams provided excellent support to UAA during the 2011-2012 academic year. Their awards were hard earned and we are proud of their respective performances. HOOOWL!!!!

We have the most projects in planning, design, or construction that we have ever had. Over 70 projects and $350 Million dollars. Construction at the community campuses includes: The PWSCC Wellness center renewal; Kenai Peninsula College’s Career Tech Center by Blazy Construction and a 90-bed housing project by Bristol Design Build Services; Re-roofing of the Homer Campus main building; We built an archive area in the Library at Kodiak as well as replacing an underground storage tank. In Mat-Su, the paramedic/nursing addition was closed in this fall and will be complete this winter; construction is by Neeser Construction. The Valley Center for Arts and Learning, a 500 seat auditorium, is in final phases of design and will bid out this spring. On the Anchorage Campus, the Seawolf Sports Arena is emerging through the efforts of Cornerstone Construction and their subcontractors. Work continues into winter with concrete placement and the arrival of structural steel. Phase 3 of the Science Building Renewal is nearly complete. Watterson Construction has completed 2 of the 3 phases. Hickle Construction built the first phase. This has been a $12M, 3 year effort. It will be great to have it back in full service for spring semester 2013. Summer Sauve Facilities PM and Krystal Haase CAS Facilities Director have worked hard with the designers, users, and builders to make this a successful project. MAC Housing Renewal Phase 1 has been awarded to Watterson, the CMAR contractor. The first phase will be under construction this summer; the full project will be a multi-year effort. The Engineering Industry building design continues under Livingstone Slone Inc; Neeser Construction was selected to participate in design and be the CMAR contractor for 2 of 3 pieces of the project. We have half of the funding and are requesting the balance in this Legislative session.

We had wind, rain, broken pipes, power loss, earthquakes, fires, extreme cold, and other excitement in the early part of the semester, but in each instance we recovered and got Campus back to a safe and comfortable condition. In following sections you will see the Facilities teams have been mighty busy this fall, and will be again this Spring.

To all of the facilities staff I say thanks for your continued efforts to keep the UAA environment safe, comfortable, and clean for our campus community. I wish you and your families a Happy, Safe, and Productive Holiday Season and New Year.
The average age of the FP&C staff has recently gotten younger. No, it’s not what you are thinking, neither Stan Vanover nor the Director have retired. It happened at the other end of the scale with the addition of 2 new Assistant Project Managers to our staff.

“There is no shortage of work for the FP&C Staff.”

As 2012 draws to a close we wish each of you a very merry Christmas, a New Year filled with joy for you and your families, and lots of deferred maintenance funding for our campus.
The Landscaping Department gave 9 tree tours to Sand Lake, Denali, and Gladys Wood elementary school children this fall. These tours were a fun and educational day away from the classroom. The kids compared leaves from different trees, learned about petrified wood, tasted crabapples and rose hips, and threw maple seeds into the air and watched them helicopter down. The children develop an awareness of things they see every day. And, perhaps, there were future UAA graduates in the bunch!
This fall EHSRMS was awarded the 2012 Chancellor’s Award for Small Team. This came from a great effort from our current team and Mike Halko as well.

Environmental Health & Safety News

By Doug Markussen, Interim Director

As the old adage says, “May you live in interesting times.” It is known as the Chinese Curse; although its origins are unknown. What you may not know is that it is the first of three worsening curses, which are: “May you come to the attention of those in authority” and “May your wishes be granted.” For me, it seems all three have hit. It has been very interesting here in EHSRMS.

Fall started with the departure of Mike Halko, our Director. As Deputy Director, I was asked to take the reins. Could this be the second & third part of the curse? I am pleased and proud to serve UAA, my alma mater, in this new capacity. But, in the last three years, we lost decades of experience. It has made for some very frantic days.

Training will be a high priority in the coming year, starting with us. Nick went to EHS Boot Camp in Houston, TX, learning more about all the “specialist” positions EHS has to offer. Maury attended CSHEMA in Portland, OR, where laboratory safety was the main theme. I attended the Annual URMIA Conference in Providence, RI, to educate myself in risk management. We have also been busy training others: ergonomic, new employee, supervisor, risk management, and task specific (forklifts).

We also had a Statewide Audit. UAA was evaluated on powered industrial trucks (forklifts) and theatre fall protection. The audit went well. With preparation, our powered industrial truck programs received high praise. Fall protection was more complicated and we stumped the auditors. It is clear that regulation and practice are separate in theatres. This is true nation-wide and corrective actions are muggy. We are working on solutions.

We also hosted a Risk Management Summit. UA system Risk Managers discussed where we are and our goals. Risk Management is in a paradigm shift. The new concept is Enterprise Risk Management. ERM says that every employee is a risk manager and has a role in managing UA’s risks. President Gamble is interested in ERM as part of UA risk management. UAA has always said that “Safety is Everybody’s Business.”

EHS also hosted the UA Minors Safety on Campus Committee meeting. Recent nationwide activities have shown we need to be proactive in the safety of the youth on our campus. UAA has good practices along these lines, but we need consistency and uniformity. The committee is working to obtain these goals.

November 6th was a big day for EHS. OSHA surprised us with an inspection for alleged noise violations; AFD responded to the WFSC, an ENG false fire alarm, and an actual fire in ADT. We were not issued an OSHA citation (the allegations proved unfounded), nobody was seriously hurt, and no significant property damage was inflicted. There were many lessons learned, though. Our Welding Policy needs attention. But most importantly, we need better communication between EHS and staff. We would NEVER discourage an employee from contacting OSHA. But, we are here as a resource to the University and its employees. EHSRMS believes that employees are UAA’s most important resource. Those aren’t just words; we mean it! If an employee ever has a question about the safety of a program, practice, or task they are being asked to do, PLEASE contact our department. There will never be negative repercussions from asking a safety question. We will do our utmost to quickly and thoroughly investigate the matter.

“It has been very interesting here in EHSRMS.”

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Upcoming Events

Dec 4—Engineering Open House (Engineering and Library 307)
Dec 6—Tudor Community Council Meetings with CMP Team
Dec 6-7—Regent’s meeting Fairbanks
Dec 11, 12—Post Disaster Assessment Team Training
Dec 14—Campus Safety Meeting
Dec 18—Building Safety Coord Manager’s Meeting
Dec 19—Admin Service Holiday Party from 2 - 4 PM in the Cuddy. Please also note that we are taking donations again for the Bean’s Cafe, and those who contribute will get an extra door prize!
Dec 20—Airport Height’s Community Council with the CMP Team
Dec 21—FCS Holiday Potluck at Cuddy
Dec 24—thru Jan 2—Winter Break
Jan 4, 2013—Facilities Team Workshop (Commons 107 9 to 3:30)
Jan 14—Spring Semester Starts

Hails:

Cory Fischer: Assistant Project Manager
Chris McConnell: Assistant Project Manager
Tessa Sellars: Landscaping/Horticulture
Nina Schwinghammer: Landscaping/Horticulture
Don Walker: Transportation
Richard Crook: Transportation
Judith Arp: Transportation
Cody Bryant: Electrical Shop
Daniel Ackerman: Electrical Shop
Randy Klingel: Building Maintenance
Alana Summerlin: Fiscal Tech
Chao Vang: Custodial

Also, we have been advertising for some time for a CT2 plumber and CT3 BAS (Building Automation System) Technician with no qualified applicants. If you know someone who may fit these positions, please encourage them to apply.

Fairwells:

Connie Jolin: End of December

In the fall we planted roughly 1,000 trees on campus or at the Mat-Su UAF Farm. Jay Stariwat and Glenn Brown have scouted UA Land on the Kenai where we can plant several thousand trees over the next few years, replacing trees lost due to construction on various campuses. Above is our tree planting team.
Sustainability News
By Paula Williams, PhD, Director

The Office of Sustainability has had a productive and exciting fall. All our crew members are new this Fall and we have been working to keep the pick-up routine running efficiently. Thanks to Nick Dighiera for working alongside the crew so he can make safety recommendations on our recycling process.

We’ve had several opportunities to reach out to students and educate them about sustainability at UAA. Since the semester began, we’ve had booths at Campus Kickoff and Spring Preview Day.

At Campus Kickoff, we promoted alternative transportation and educated students, their parents, staff, and faculty about the conveniences of riding the People Mover bus, riding bikes, and combining bike rides with bus rides. We had a bike rack from the front of the buses to demonstrate how they work, and handed out bike maps. Our recycling crew also helped students play the “Recycle It Right Game” to educate them about what can and can’t be recycled on campus. We were able to connect with over 100 people.

At Spring Preview Day (an event for local high school students to experience a day at UAA), we again played the “Recycle it Right” game. During this time, we chatted with several parents who were impressed and enthusiastic that UAA has a recycling program and were excited by the campus’ mission of sustainability.

On November 15, the Office of Sustainability hosted an event for America Recycles Day which we named “Trash the Cuddy”. Thanks to Glenn Brown and Edwin Delatorre for their help and cooperation in bringing all the trash generated by UAA in one day to the Cuddy Quad for display to students, staff and faculty. We hope that by showing people the amount, they will be more aware of the need to recycle as much as possible. We collaborated with Dr. Herminia Din and her Art Appreciation students and Professor Mary Logan and her Honors 192 students. We were able to connect with about 300 people and teach them about sustainability on campus.

Dr. Din’s students taught people how to make candleholders out of used aluminum cans, and Professor Logan’s students taught people about the long, wasteful process of mining and producing aluminum cans. They also distributed a survey asking about peoples’ knowledge of recycling practices. Overall, the event was a major success.

For those of you who have been waiting, Anchorage has just announced that glass can once again be recycled AND SO CAN YOU! At work, add your glass to your collection of plastic and aluminum. We will sort it out. At home, glass cannot be collected in curbside recycling; empty bottles without lids can be brought to the Anchorage Recycling Center off Dowling on Rosewood. Recycled glass will be used to support local businesses. It will be crushed by Central Recycling Services and used in aggregate and as fill for cable and pipe trenches. As we move forward into a new semester and new year, we are very excited about the possibilities to come. 2013 looks to be a wonderful year!

Happy holidays from the Office of Sustainability!