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Volume 1 Issue 4

Good morning everyone, welcome to the **Facilities Forum**.

Like everyone else, I'm thrilled that -40 temperatures are behind us, and the forecast for the next few days looks great. We seem to have made it through one of the longest cold snaps in recent memory with only minor facilities issues. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make sure campus was safe and warm.

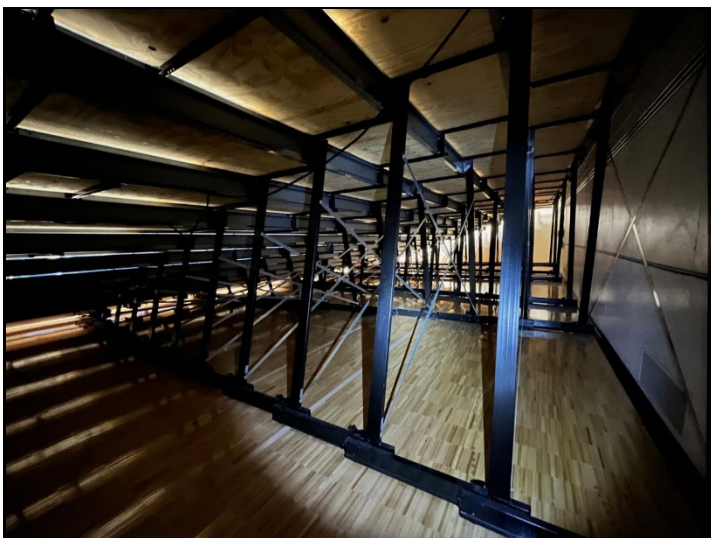
Keep reading for interesting photos, an exciting article about new Grounds crew equipment, and a surprise bonus toward the end of the newsletter. As always, if anyone reading this has a UAF facilities related story to share, or an interesting photo that should be included in a future edition of the Facilities Forum, please send them my way!

A huge THANK YOU to Macie Schoemaker with the FS IT crew for designing the amazing new banner for the newsletter this week. It looks great!

The Week in Photos



The temperatures are warmer now, but remember those cold temperatures a couple of weeks ago? This was the door into the basement mechanical room of the Upark building! It was completely iced up on the inside. The moisture was due to a steam leak in the basement, which our crews are working to repair. We'll also be installing a small unit heater in the stairwell to keep this from happening in the future. At this point, the door is accessible again.



This is the space under the bleachers at Patty Center. Our carpenter shop gets a preventative maintenance work order each year to tighten up all the bolts under here, and test the

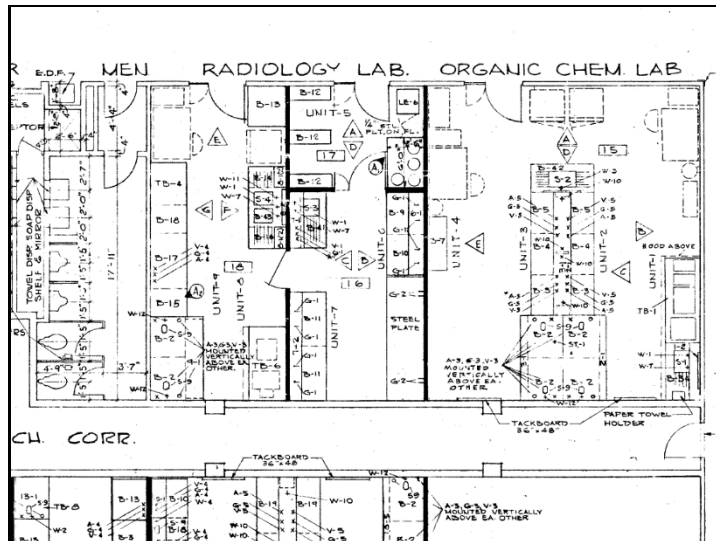


Occasionally, our crews have to come up with innovative solutions to complicated problems. James Mitchell Sr. in the Carpentry shop used this ice fishing shelter to apply new Sikaflex to expansion joints in the concrete on the Patty Center walking deck. We've been having some water get through the concrete into the training room below. The walking deck has a snow melt system built into it, so we can get the surface nice and warm. Heating the ice fishing shelter to room temperature allows us to apply the sealant in temperatures that would otherwise be too cold! Nice work team!



I'm not sure what happened here, but it was reported to us last Thursday that the campus entrance sign on the corner of Farmers Loop and North Tanana Drive was broken. The panels on both sides are shattered like this. It may have been due to the extreme cold temperatures over the past two weeks, because it doesn't appear to have been damaged intentionally. Our shops are ordering new panels for the sign and will replace the broken ones as soon as they arrive.

operation of the drive motors, wheel assemblies, etc. It's a really big job. Bob Crenshaw (a retiree from Design and Construction who is now helping us fine-tune some PM programs) is working on making our program better and more effective. Next time you attend a volleyball or basketball game, be sure to notice how nice the bleachers are!



Original building floor plans from Arctic Health, 1965.



One of our flooring term contractors has been working on room 183 in Arctic Health, which is a strangely configured classroom/lecture hall. There's a stage at the west end of the room with a motorized fabric curtain that can separate the two halves of the space. The wood paneling is from the original construction in 1965. Building plans from that time show this room was intended for "Radiology" and "Organic Chemistry". It was set up with all sorts of lab benches and equipment. It's amazing how things can change over the decades... Now this is just a regular lecture hall, with nice new flooring.

Announcements

- Combined Heat and Power Plant tours are offered the first Friday of each month at 1:30pm. If you are interested in participating please sign up by emailing UAF-chptours@alaska.edu.
- We have celebrities among us! Two FS employees (one current, one former) were recognized in a recent [article in Outside magazine](#) about the restoration of the Into the Wild Bus here on campus. Check it out!

Shuttle Bus Drivers and Grounds Crew positions reclassified

One of the key tenets of our ongoing strategic planning initiative is to ensure that UAF Facilities Services has a qualified workforce. A major goal of this project is to ensure a structured career path for employee groups, with competitive jobs and fair compensation.

In looking over the job responsibilities and requirements for two distinct groups, shuttle bus drivers and small equipment operators, we determined that their positions fit better under the MSW4 category than MSW3. Working with the team at Labor Relations and within the letter and spirit of the [collective bargaining agreement](#) between the University and Local 6070, we were able to update the two job descriptions and promote ten employees into the higher classification. Moving forward, we will hire new shuttle bus drivers and small equipment operators directly into MSW4 positions.

While this won't be a possibility for most other job types, we are excited to have been able to target these two groups of employees. If you have any questions about strategic planning or want to be involved in the project as it moves forward, please reach out to your supervisor.

New skid steers for Grounds Crew

By Amber McKirgan, Grounds Shop Service Manager

This winter, the Grounds department achieved a significant milestone by introducing notable additions to our equipment fleet - two brand new 226D3 CAT skid steers.

These machines represent a crucial upgrade to our aging fleet of snow removal equipment, bringing about a substantial improvement in our ability to clear walkways with enhanced ease and efficiency. The size, speed and upgraded power of these skid steers have played a pivotal role in elevating our snow removal capabilities.

With the incorporation of these new CATs, we can now utilize larger implements, enabling us to clear more surface area. This efficiency translates to fewer passes compared to our older equipment, allowing us to clear areas more effectively and promptly.

Given the expansion of linear feet of walkways and the challenges associated with hiring additional labor support, the improved efficiency in snow clearing plays a vital role in our commitment to maintaining a safe and navigable campus environment for all of our students, faculty, staff, and guests.



The Grounds Crew's new 226D3 skid steer with the UAF Time and Temperature sign. After a couple weeks of -40 temperatures, the Grounds Crew is thrilled to be working in +20!



Clearing snow in the campus core area

Furthermore, these enhancements offer our operators an improved working environment, featuring a sealed and pressurized cab (plus a heated seat). This design not only ensures a cleaner operating space but also contributes to a quieter atmosphere, enhancing the overall comfort and productivity for our team.

The upgraded safety features and ergonomic design of the operator station significantly reduce operator fatigue and physical stresses, leading to minimized downtime and increased work efficiency.

With the incorporation of newer, state-of-the-art equipment, breakdowns occur less frequently, and the time required for repairs is typically shortened. This translates to more uptime, less downtime, and ultimately, a higher return on investment.

Open Facilities Services Positions

- [Sheet Metal Fabricator](#)
 - [Mechanical Engineer](#)
 - [Asbestos Abatement Technician](#)
 - [Housing Maintenance Technician](#)
 - [Contract Manager](#)
 - [Facilities Mechanical Engineer](#)
 - [Pool Technician](#)
 - [Alarms Technician](#)
 - [Labor Crew](#)
 - [Boiler Specialist](#)
 - [Electrical Assistant/Relamper](#)
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UAF Historical Photo of the Week



This undated photo from the Alaska Digital Archives shows groups of students outside their residence halls. This picture was likely taken from what would now be about the northeast corner of Wickersham, facing east. The old water tower is on the right; that structure was on the north side of the Eielson building. The original power plant with its two distinctive smokestacks is in the background. It once stood about where the library is now. My best guess is this photo is from the late 1950's.



Bonus historical photo: Cameron Wohlford helps paint the Taku Bus Hut, circa 1994

That's all I have for today. I hope everyone has a safe and productive week. Thanks for all you do for UAF Facilities!

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