



March 6, 2024

Volume 1 Issue 5

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

We made it to March! Don't forget that next week is Spring Break, and next Friday (March 15) is a University holiday. In this edition of the Facilities Forum, we have an update on one of the major renovation projects happening on campus, the Rasmuson Library Student Success Center.

If you are working on something interesting and want to write an article about it, or if you have a photo to share, please get in touch with me. I'll feature your work in a future edition of the Facilities Forum. The next newsletter will be sent on Wednesday, March 20.

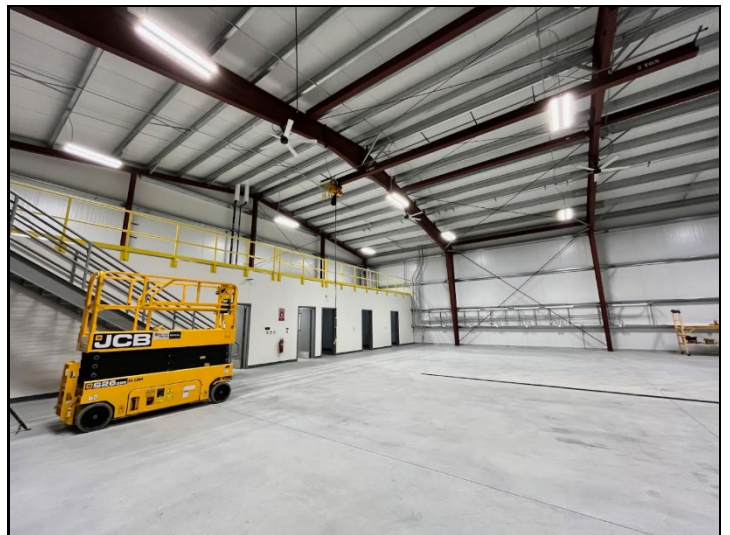
The Week in Photos



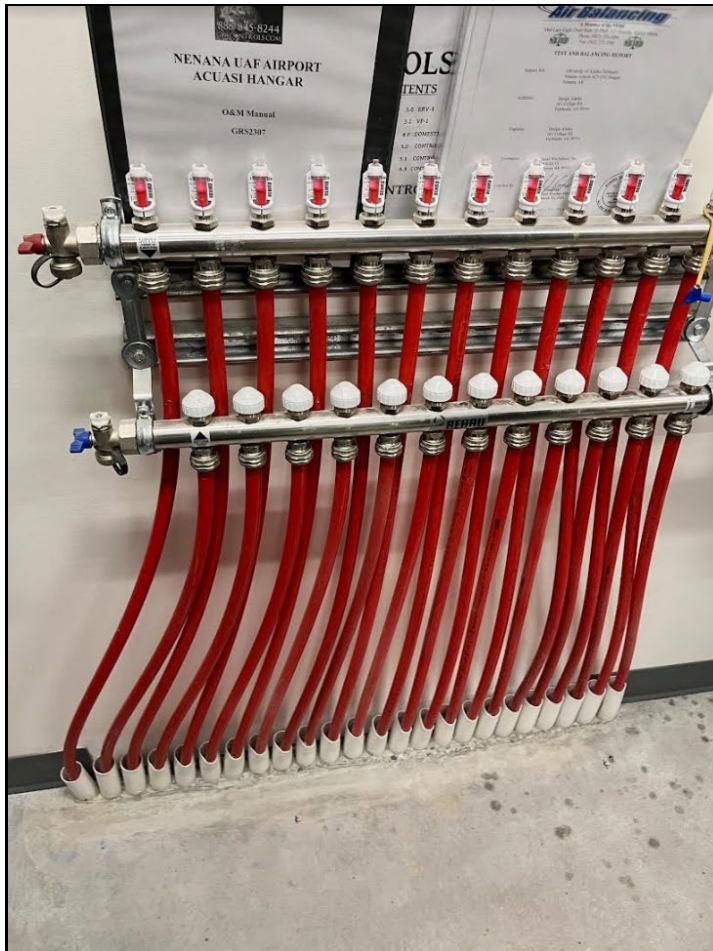
Sometimes I enjoy stumbling across notes left by previous generations of technicians in our buildings. A few days ago, while looking for the propane reset switch in Arctic Health, I found these instructions scribbled on the wall in pencil. They say “to restart pull top knob, push start button. Red light on. Red light above ↑ (next to yellow box) also on”. This was exactly what I needed to know! A new (easy to read) sign will be made and installed soon. If you’re ever looking for this propane reset, it’s on the east wall, at the bottom of the ramp, just outside of room 147A.



The Sign Shop has been busy creating new signage for Moore and Bartlett Halls. Each room is getting a new sign as the paint contractors wrap up their work.



Several Facilities employees attended a recent mechanical systems training session for the new ACUASI hangar at the Nenana airport. It’s an impressive building, where some really exciting science and engineering is going to happen.



A really impressive manifold for the radiant floor heating system inside the ACUASI Nenena Hangar!



The labor crew got a group photo after moving this very heavy, very expensive bear sculpture from the Patty Center to the Signers Hall lobby yesterday. Great work!

Announcements

- Congratulations to Dom Fantazzi, UAF's Fire Sprinkler Technician, for being selected at the Employee of the Month for March. The EOM award comes with a \$300 bonus and a designated parking spot! If you want to nominate someone as April's EOM, use [this form](#).
- Anyone who works (or may need to work) in the MRI suite at Murie must take an annual safety training refresher. The next one is being offered in-person by Carl Murphy on Thursday, March 21 at 4:00pm in Murie 103. Remember... The magnet is always on!

A Busy Weekend on Campus

Last weekend (February 24 and 25) was a very, very busy time for Facilities Services crews. It started with a 10-hour unplanned steam outage on Friday. The outage was projected to last long enough that we decided to deploy portable heaters to strategic locations around campus, despite daytime temperatures hovering in the 20's. Portable heaters were successfully used at the SRC and the BiRD building. There were 80 or so middle school students spending the night in the SRC who needed to stay safe and warm. Thank you to the crew who moved and operated that equipment!

The steam outage was resolved by 11pm last Friday night. Unrelated to that event, we had leaks in WRRB, Duckering, O'Neill, and McIntosh that various crews from our shops and ABM responded to. Again, my thanks to everyone involved in the response and clean-up efforts.

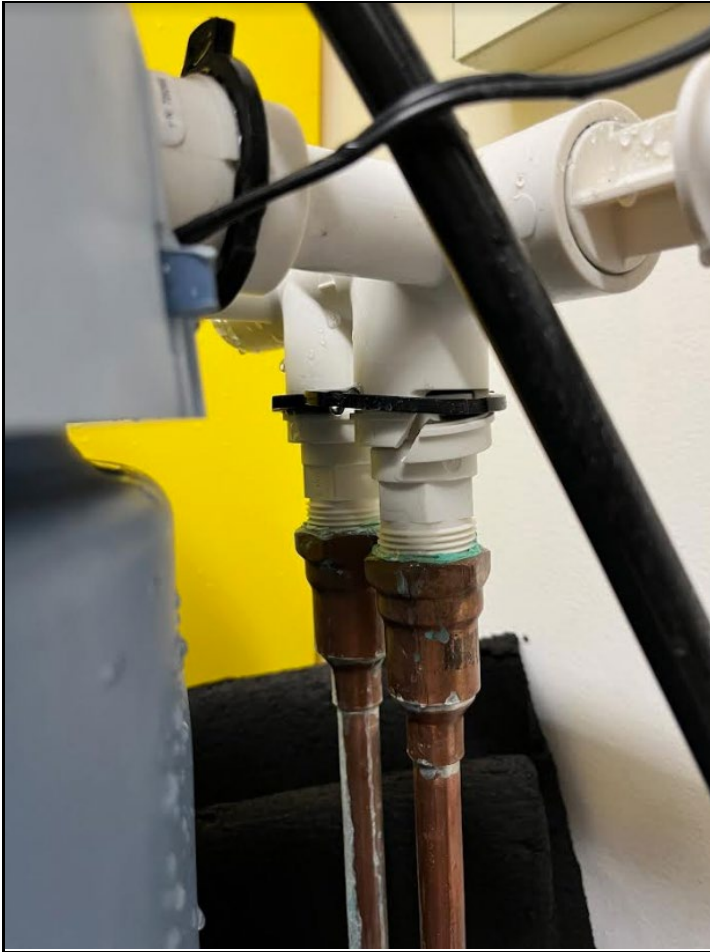
A few photos below demonstrate how much work had to be done to deal with the building issues!



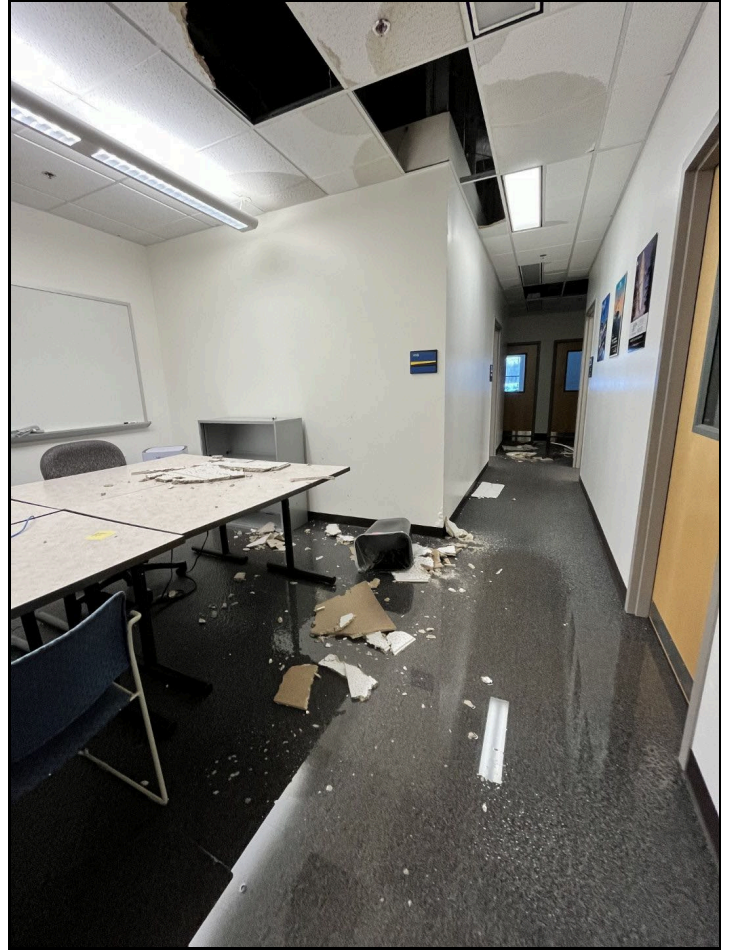
Our 1.5 million BTU Tioga heater was deployed to the BiRD building last Friday. In the photo above the hot air discharge hose is run up the side of the building and into the outside air intake. This setup kept the research animals inside the building comfortable during the steam outage.



The computer lab in Duckering 530 was flooded by ethylene glycol because a seal failed on the cooling loop pumps in the penthouse mechanical room. Ethylene is considered hazardous material, so it needs to be handled with care. All the glycol was extracted from the carpet quickly, but the carpentry shop will still be replacing a large section of this flooring during Spring Break. Side note: The ethylene glycol in the district loop is colored blue so it can easily be recognized. Propylene glycol, which is far less toxic and used in most heating applications on campus, is colored yellow for the same reason.



The broken plastic fitting on the back of the water softener at WRRB that caused the flood.



This flood occurred at the West Ridge Research Building last Saturday morning. This is the 111 suite, occupied by the Alaska Satellite Facility staff. Fortunately, it was clean water, since the flood resulted from a broken fitting on the water softener in the lab above this space. The cause of the failure is unknown.

Rasmuson Library Student Success Center Project

By Nick Middlestadt, Project Manager, Division of Design and Construction

The Rasmuson Library Student Success Center project has completed rough-in and is progressing to mud, tape, and paint work. When the completed Student Success Center opens in August 2024, it will consolidate student support services such as Tutoring (Math/Speech/Writing), Testing Services, Academic Advising, and Career Services onto the library's 6th floor as a single program in plain view of the students it serves. At present, these services are scattered across Bunnell, Chapman, Eielson, and Gruening's 5th and 8th floors—with differing fee models, hours of availability, and access to resources like meeting rooms, classrooms, storage, and staff break areas.



An artist's rendition of what this new space will look like when the project is finished



The 6th floor of the library all cleared out and ready for renovation

The Student Success Center will offer a more consistent model for hours and fees, create overlap between services (e.g., speech/writing tutors assisting with resumes and Career Services conducting practice interviews), and facilitate access to a variety of general use spaces (small meeting rooms, conferencing rooms, one-button studio, and smart classroom) for program and student use with additional benefit from the inherent resources of the library.

The space aims to be a useful, attractive, and inclusive space for students, filled with color and providing increased natural light by use of high open spaces and abundant glazing, with a family study room and mother's room for our students who are raising families as they pursue their education. Completion of the Student Success Center will also serve as a stepping stone for rebalancing of spaces in the buildings the user groups originate from, kicking off a wave of new projects.

While it is only 6 months into construction, DDC and the user groups have been working on this project since 2020. Design development on through construction has taken input, sound boarding, operational support, and lots of early equipment orders from different groups (Lock Shop, HVAC/Host Room, Security Access, Fire Alarm Shop, Sprinkler Shop, UAF Police and Fire Departments, Space Planning, Custodial, Plumbing, OIT and Nanook Technology Services, the User Committee, and many more).

Just preparing the 6th floor for construction was no small effort, as it required relocating several hundred thousand books, stacks, and furniture by the library staff, Labor Shop, and Central Receiving. Every project requires the collective pieces that each group's knowledge and experiences provide, and this project wouldn't have gotten off the ground without everyone's help. Thank you!



An artist's rendition of the new space on the 6th floor of the library

Open Facilities Services Positions

- [Engineering Assistant](#)
- [Senior Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Utilities Electrician](#)
- [Sheet Metal Fabricator](#)
- [Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Asbestos Abatement Technician](#)
- [Housing Maintenance Technician](#)
- [Contract Manager](#)
- [Facilities Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Pool Technician](#)

- [Alarms Technician](#)
- [Labor Crew](#)
- [Electrical Assistant/Relamer](#)

UAF Historical Photo of the Week



There are some very familiar names in this photo from the late 1930's. From left to right: "Dr. Albrecht, Leo Rhode, R. E. Lathrop, Andrew Nerland, Mrs. Hess, Dr. Bunnell, William O'Neill, W. T. Stuart, and M.J. Walsh."

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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