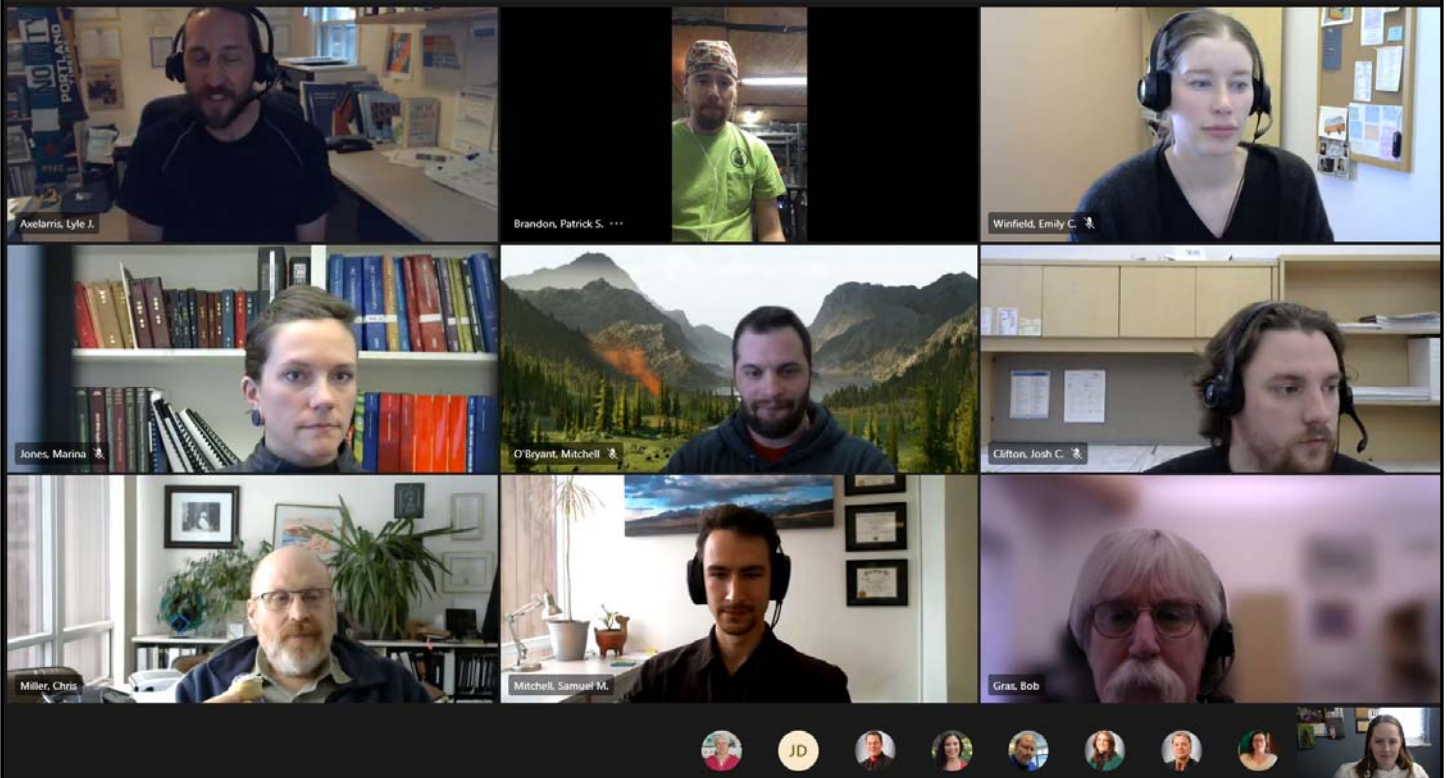


On Friday, March 25, Design Alaska employees gathered virtually to celebrate the achievements of several employees. Emory was recently awarded the Student Engineer of the Year award, Bob was awarded the Engineer of the Year award, Mitchell was awarded the Young Engineer of the Year award, Pat passed the Structural Engineering exam, and Eliza passed the Landscape Architect Exam. Employees gathered for a virtual celebration from their desks, remote offices, and homes to socialize and celebrate the achievements.



To celebrate Emory, Pat, Bob, Eliza, and Mitchell's achievements, we enjoyed a delicious variety of cupcakes from AK Cupcakes, a local bakery that often appears at bazaars and events around Fairbanks. The flavors featured were red velvet, white chocolate raspberry, blueberry cheesecake, and carrot cake.



President's Corner

We are Generalists

One of the unique things about our business is that we deliberately try to help every person that calls for DESIGN services for a project in ALASKA. This means I look into work that I have never specifically done before and try to find a way to propose on the project as much as possible. Sometimes; however, we have to steer a potential client to professionals that are more suitable for the project's needs. Some examples:

One- and Two-Family Homes: The residential work for one- and two-family homes is much different than our day-to-day work. We have found it is best to refer them to other professionals who work in that field all the time and are optimized to help them efficiently. We do, however, go after apartments and other larger scale residences that utilize the IBC or the townhouse provisions of the IRC.

Industrial Processes: The recent work at the UAF Powerplant and IGU Tria Road facility shows that we do work on industrial processes, but we try to work on the areas that are similar to our experience. The industrial work, including the oil and gas fields, have a different language and standards than our experience. We like taking on projects that touch that work, but we use sub-consultants that are experienced in that industrial process to translate for us and do the things we have not seen before.

Economic Analysis and Public Outreach: In the planning stage, some projects need a business model developed or obtain deliberate public feedback on the plan. This is another place where we hire other people to help us do the work, or we sub to the planners to provide some design work that they can then work into their economic model. The current work at Pioneer Park Master Plan is a good example.

Geotechnical Engineering: We almost always contract out the Geotechnical work for a project because the experience that the dedicated firms have built over the years is critical to advising the owner on the base of the building. We engage the geotechnical engineers during design to really understand their recommendations so that we can provide the appropriate structural and civil solutions for the site soil.

Materials Testing During Construction: We recommend that owners utilize dedicated material testing firms during construction to make sure they are getting the product they intend to be installed. This work requires specialized training, calibrated machines, and immediate construction response to meet the schedules. It seems you must be full-time in this business to cover the overhead costs to provide the service.

Although we do stretch ourselves constantly to do work we may have not done before to gain knowledge and experience, we also recognize areas where the client is much better served by a specialists. By recommending a specialist to a client, we can build trust and gain a positive collaboration with others in the specialized industry for future projects.

Chris Miller, PE

President, Design Alaska



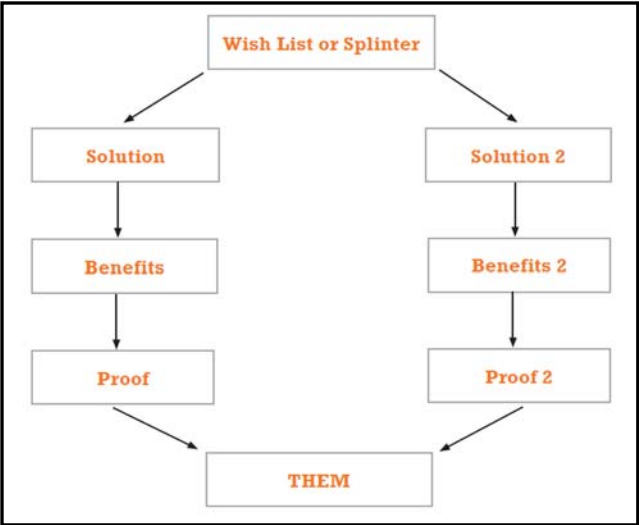
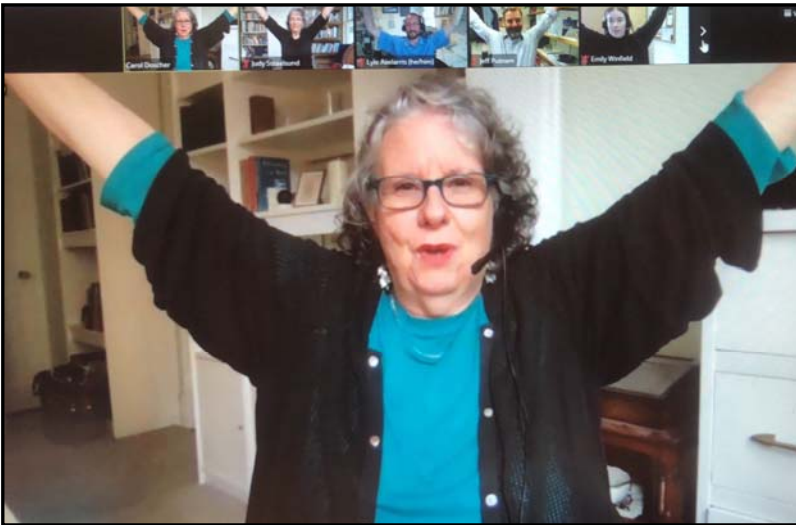
This year Design Alaska Employees donated a company record high amount to the United Way of the Tanana Valley. During 2020's annual campaign employees raised funds from raffles, donor forms, and a 100% match from Design Alaska. The funds raised also included Design Alaska's end of the year donation for a total of \$57,830.00 going straight to the local United Way chapter.



With the wonderful weather we have been having, what better way to enjoy than to bring the couches outside for lunch? Robin Rader, Blake Burley, Leif Olson, Becca Olson, and Charlotte Olson had this idea and were able to enjoy some sunshine while eating lunch last week. What fun!

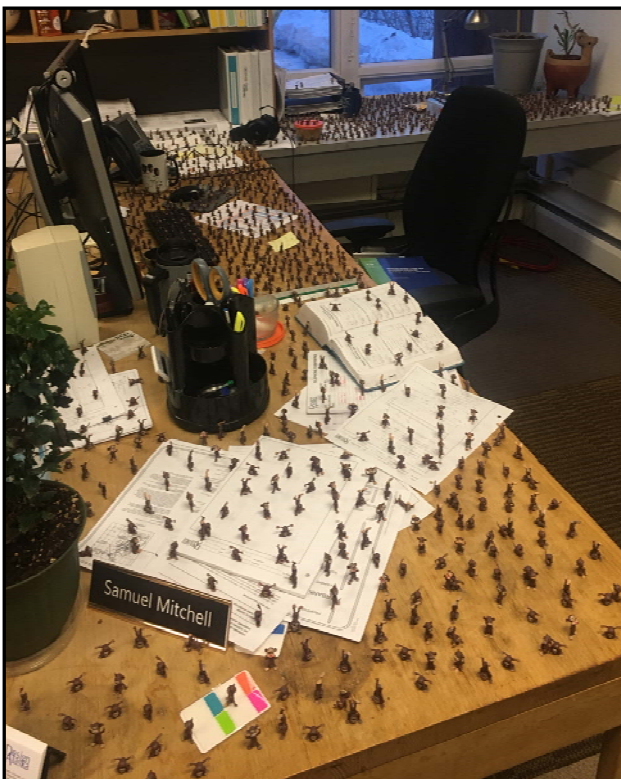


On Monday, April 13, Design Alaska employees participated in communication training with Carol and Judy of Graceworks. The training, titled “Bring Your Presentations to Life! / The Hi-Tech Human Connection” was energetic and informative. There were discussions on virtual call etiquette and how to communicate effectively, story structure, and how to make human connections through a screen.



What song, artist, or type of music do you like but rarely admit to liking?

Samuel Mitchell	It is not my normal genre, but If I am working out and really want to get into a groove, I have gotta' throw in some Linkin Park. I mean, nothing inspires endurance like "...you can't run the race – The pace is too fast, you just won't last," right?
Robin Rader	Kids Christian music.
Eliza Cink	I'm a secret Country fan. Reba McEntire, Tim McGraw, Carrie Underwood, Toby Keith, George Strait... I got into it in high school and continue to listen to the 2000's stars now.
Chris Miller	I would typically say I am not a fan of country music, but I am frequently surprised that I turn up the volume when I hear some country tunes. Great Music is just great no matter what the genre classification.
Lyle Axelarris	I haven't seen it in years, but I found most songs in Moulin Rouge surprisingly captivating, especially Come What May and the crazy medley they sang on the elephant roof.
Pat Brandon	I've been turning to country lately. Listening to the news on KUAC has a tendency to bring me down and I switch to country for easy listening and it is generally uplifting. My 18 year-old self would be so disappointed by this answer.
Deanna Woods	I have a really eclectic taste in music. But when I am driving by myself, I am usually jamming out to 90's rap or K-pop.



Monkey Business

Some picture from Samuel's desk. He came in to a rowdy bunch of monkey's partying on his desk. Samuel says there is a good chance that these little dudes will be traveling to other departments in Design Alaska, and eating the bananas from the fruit bowl. Stay vigilant!





Wellness



Emotional Wellness

When people think about wellness, they often think of physical activity and nutrition. Your emotional wellness is just as important for your overall health. Here are a few examples on how to maintain good mental wellness:

Be Positive: It is so easy to get caught up in the negativity of the world. When you start to feel yourself thinking or feeling negative things, redirect your mind to a more positive thought.

Relieve Stress: While stress is a normal part of life, it has a negative impact on your emotional state. A few ways to relieve stress is to take a time out and breathe, get some fresh air, create an upbeat musical playlist, talk to a loved one, or take some time to do something you love.

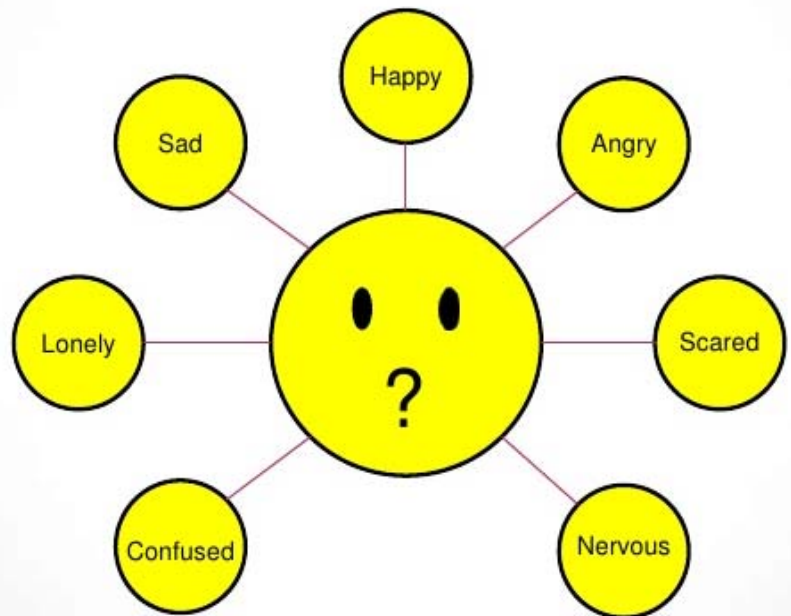
Speak up: Talk about how you are feeling and what you need to feel supported.

Listen: Pay attention to the feelings of others and look for ways to support each other.

Balance: Be realistic about your responsibilities and what you feel like you can accomplish. Taking on too much hinders productivity. Set practical goals and priorities. Do not forget to take time for you!

Ask for Help: If you are feeling emotionally low, do not hesitate to reach out. Call a family member, friend, coworker, or mental health line. Do not feel like you are alone.

Why what we feel matters



Here are some websites to check out for ways to improve and maintain your Emotional Wellness:

Article archive regarding mental health:
health.harvard.edu/topics/mind-and-mood

Unique ways to stay in touch during COVID:
<https://streammd.com/stay-in-touch>

Ideas for Positive Playlist:
www.thetoptens.com/best-songs-positive-message

Self-care ideas: developgoodhabits.com/self-care-ideas/



EMOTIONAL WELLNESS



FREE HOMEOWNER EDUCATION CLASS

Air Source Heat Pumps

April 21, 2021 at 5:30PM via Zoom
With Dr. Tom Marsik

Both of these technologies are covered by a recently extended federal tax credit

Solar PV Systems

April 22, 2021 at 5:30PM via Zoom
With Elizabeth Johnston, PE, FPE

Classes will cover the basics of how the technologies work, what to consider if you want to install them, and resources, with lots of time for questions!

Sign up at tinyurl.com/HeatPumpClass or tinyurl.com/solarPVclass.

Presented by:



GVEA is proud to partner with the Cold Climate Housing Research Center and Solarize Fairbanks for two free, virtual homeowner education courses. Classes will cover the basics of how heat pump and solar arrays work, what to consider if you want to install them, and resources. There will be lots of time for questions! Both heat pumps and solar arrays are covered under a recently extended federal tax credit.

Wednesday, April 21 at 5:30PM – Air Source Heat Pumps with Dr. Tom Marsik (CCHRC)

Sign up for the Air Source Heat Pump class at: https://us02web.zoom.us/join?pwd=ZU9ufu2prj4jHd2ac3BED-16C1YUQd09odgT?fbclid=IwAR0EvS0xXxXrn-OA_CPC3qYMS60BU20wIFJ1-99tR5G8TA7tzADpxoQYGua

Thursday, April 22 at 5:30PM – Solar PV with Elizabeth Johnston, PE (Design Alaska)

Sign up for the Solar PV System class at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuceCsqDgiG9Kv-RgyyqvurA1Qm6vQ74L?fbclid=IwAR32XSdbHrSx9HzqV_CAJ53I5viK3BWZmnLxrJJYcfBAsk9R2vJC9TsKQk

April 2021 ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Easter 	5	6	7 Table Massages	8	9	10
11	12 Graceworks Training	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Birthday Celebration	20	21 Table Massages	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Managers' Meeting	30	

April Birthdays

Jennifer Davis April 3
Aaron Wilbur April 14



May Upcoming Events

Cinco De Mayo BBQ May 5
Table Massages May 5
Table Massages May 19
Blue Flame Food Truck May 27
Managers Meeting May 27

Design Alaska Anniversaries

Bob Gras	35th Anniversary	April 14, 1986
James Bartlett	25th Anniversary	April 19, 1996
Don Hopkins	18th Anniversary	April 14, 2003
Blake Burley	3rd Anniversary	April 9, 2018
Bill Guevremont	3rd Anniversary	April 16, 2018
Aaron Wilbur	2nd Anniversary	April 10, 2019

Around Town

Poetry Walk	Creamers Field	April 17-25
Spring Bazaar	Fairhill Christian School	April 24

