

Design Alaska

NEWSLETTER

August 2021 / Volume 14 / Issue 8



On Sunday, August 8, the annual Design Alaska Company Adventure was held in Valdez, AK. For this year's adventure, employees made the trip south to hop on the Stan Stephens Meares Glacier Cruise. Despite the fog and rain, the day was spent seeing the gorgeous views, various wildlife, and of course the massive Meares Glacier. Employees, family, and friends enjoyed the sounds of the Headbolt Heaters as they played throughout the duration of the trip. Swag bags filled with snacks were enjoyed by all, and a special wildlife bingo game was an exciting way to keep track of the many animals that were viewed that day. See page 3 for more photos from the adventure.



President's Corner

Saying NO and YES

When we are busy, as we currently are, I am often asked why we still pursue new work so aggressively. Much of the work we get comes through term contracts and existing relationships. We always say YES to that work, as it is important to support our partners; our best clients are the ones we work for over and over again. We work hard to serve our existing customers' needs. They are the ones that provide us with a continuing stream of work and we want them to know they can rely on us when needed.

We do, in fact, say NO to some projects that we are asked to propose on, and workload is one of the reasons we do so. Other decision-making factors include client familiarity, experience with similar work, rewarding work, project location, design schedule, and proposal requirements.

Busy or not, it is important to be aggressive in our pursuit of new work. That is what keeps our backlog of future work full and allows us to be healthy and continue to grow. The danger of not being aggressive is running out of work to do. We are busy now and we have been here before. The best strategy I have is get something done, and move on to the next thing. We will always strive to have a work backlog that pursues our overall purpose of a rewarding professional experience.

Chris Miller P.E.
President

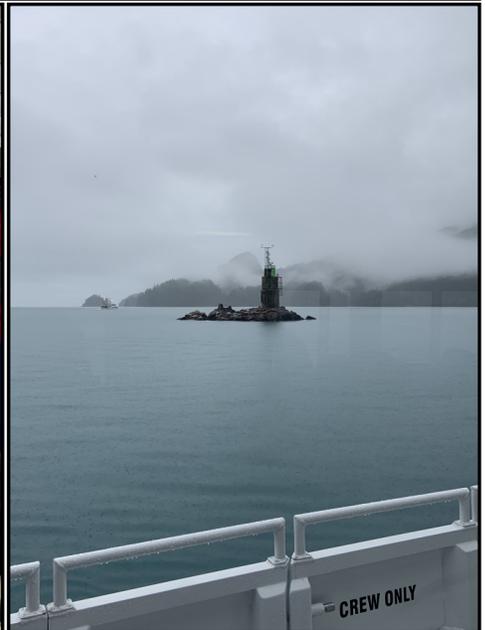
Summer Intern Parting Words: Joseph Lemon

Thank you all for an excellent time at Design Alaska. I gained valuable experience and learned many things that I will take with me through the rest of my engineering career. Thank you, Mechanical Department. I had the opportunity to work with everyone in the Mechanical Department on various sorts of projects, and each person was a great help to me. I not only received valuable engineering experience, but I also had an enjoyable time getting involved in the office events. Whether it was talking through project-related discussions, laughing at something funny that had happened that week, or a number of other interesting topics, I had a great time.

One central aspect to work at DA is drafting in Revit. It was a good opportunity to expand my drafting knowledge and gain experience. I also had many opportunities to expand my Excel knowledge, refine my time management, and improve in my presentations of work or other findings. Furthermore, I became more accustomed to abbreviations, codes, equipment, and standard methods which will be helpful in my future path in engineering.

I would like to complement DA for its friendly atmosphere and kind employees. The company food truck picnics and vegetable trays were just two perks among many of working with DA. Also, the accessibility and willingness of Chris, Kym, Emily, and others to help, talk, or answer questions was excellent. Thank you again and keep up the good work!

Company Adventure Continued...



What is the weirdest food you've ever eaten ?	
Chris Miller	I had some bowhead whale as a gift from a person in Utquiavik. You can definitely understand how the whale was very important to feeding people. A small piece of muktuk fat and a piece of very dark colored meat was a real cultural gift.
Marina Jones	Probably a chicken foot. Not one of my chickens either. Was invited to a Chinese New Year celebration with friends that owned a Chinese restaurant back in New York and was able to celebrate with them outside of the restaurant with their family. Definitely ate some weird stuff that night but that one probably topped them all.
Samuel Mitchell	Balut (fermented, partially developed chicken in egg). Had a small piece – enough to try it, but not a bit more. Flavor wasn't that bad, but once my brother started pointing out the beak and such, I had to walk away. I must say, he is quite compatible with his Filipina wife.
Eliza Cink	Pork skin/fat in a plum sauce, alligator on a stick, and "Kiszka" aka Wurstebrei, which is a sausage with barley and offal, eaten fried.
Bill Guevremont	Jelly fish.
Eric Gabrielson	I was at a picnic a couple weeks ago, and someone brought a potato salad with coleslaw mixed in. It was criminal, but oddly delicious. 10/10 would not eat again.
Blake Burley	Peas. Peas are nasty. I also had some cookies that had been soaked in fermented horse milk and then dried out when I was in Mongolia. Second only to peas in stimulating my gag reflex.
Jennifer Davis	Muktuk when I was a child. Most recently peanuts in Coke.
Dantasia Baum	Porcupine. A family friend hit one on the way home, cooked it up, and had me try it with the explanation that the mystery meat "tastes just like pot roast."
Jim Godfrey	Pig Blood Gravy, my Grandpa used to serve it over rice. It was Delicious.
Robin Rader	Licorice ice cream. It looks like crank case grease and doesn't taste much better. Peanut butter macaroni and cheese might be the worst though (recipe provided in the newspaper by the Peanut Butter Institute of America). The first couple of bites taste OK and then you get this urge to throw up. Mom got greatly offended that we would not eat the stuff, but it was simply an impossibility.
Deanna Woods	In Mexico we ate fried crickets. It was interesting....Not my favorite.
Ryan Morse	Horse Meat, although illegal, I am sure the statute of limitations has expired.

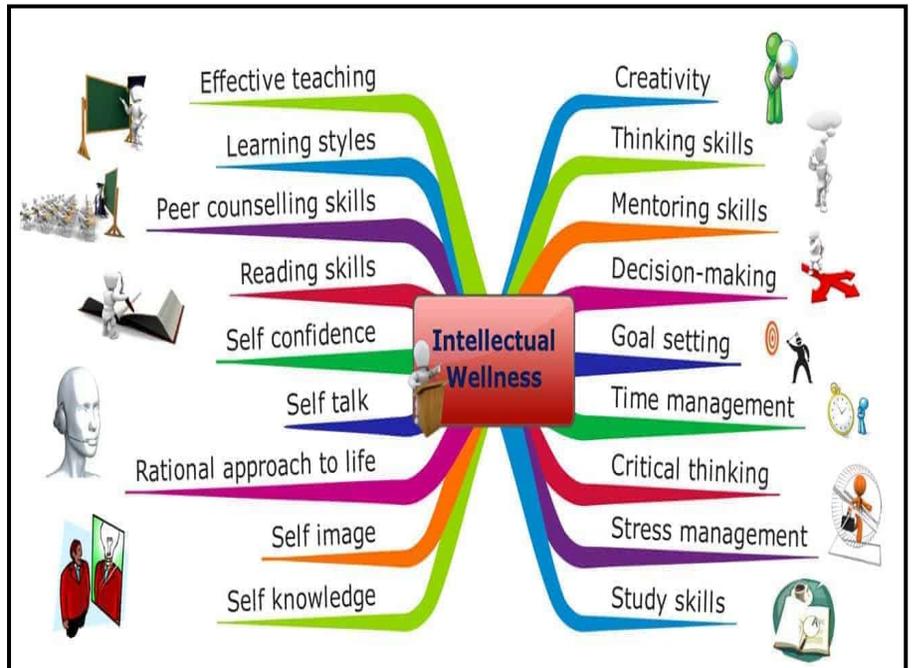


Intellectual Wellness

By: Deanna Woods



Often times intellectual wellness is only associated with people who have college degrees or have high IQs. Intellectual wellness goes much deeper than that. It challenges you to seek personal growth be it taking a college class, learning a new skill, being creative or sharpening your critical thinking skills. Luckily, there are things we can do to increase our intellectual wellness, some of which require little time, and can be added to a daily routine.



Ways to Improve your Intellectual Wellness:

1. Download a word of the day app and try to incorporate new words in to everyday conversations
2. Try a new hobby, Fairbanks has many small shops that teach hands on hobbies. Check out the Folk School for upcoming classes.
3. Playing games like sudoku, solitaire, and crosswords, or doing puzzles, help with critical thinking.
4. Read a book or article about a topic you find interesting.
5. Learn a new language.
6. Find a new podcast to listen to.

8 Dimensions of Wellness





Recycling

By: Elizabeth Johnston



Why Recycle Eyeglasses?

An estimated 120 million people* are visually impaired because of uncorrected refractive errors (far and nearsightedness). Almost all cases can be corrected and normal vision can be restored with eyeglasses, contact lenses or refractive surgery.

The lack of eyeglasses denies children and adults opportunities for education, employment, and a better quality of life.

The Journey of Recycled Glasses

1. Lions and Leos collect used eyeglasses at various community locations.
2. The glasses are shipped to the nearest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center where trained volunteers sort, clean, and determine the prescription strengths of the glasses.
3. Volunteers at the recycling center carefully package the prepared glasses and store them until they are required for eyeglass dispensing missions. Glasses that are not suitable for reuse are recycled for scrap, with the earnings benefitting local Lions and Leos projects.
4. At the mission site, eye care professionals and trained Lion and Leo volunteers perform vision screenings and dispense the appropriate recycled glasses, free of charge, to children and adults in need.



Where Can I Recycle My Glasses in Fairbanks

Mountain View Eye Center
2555 Philips Field Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709

July Food Truck: Suka's



August 2021 ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Company Adventure	9 Floating Holiday	10	11	12 Company BBQ	13	14
15	16 Birthday Celebration	17	18 Table Massage	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Managers Meeting & Food Truck	27	28
29	30	31				

August Birthdays

Jeff Putnam	August 1
Matt Krueger	August 1
James Bartlett	August 8
Bob Gras	August 14
Pete Jacobsen	August 25
Daniel Ackerman	August 25



Design Alaska Anniversaries

James Godfrey August 5, 2019 2nd Anniversary

September Upcoming Events

Monday, September 6—Labor Day—Design Alaska Closed
 Thursday, September 9—End of Summer BBQ
 Thursday, September 23—End of Summer Food Truck



On July 22, Design Alaska was visited by Corvus, a group of musicians from the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival as a thank you for the company's continued support of their program. The group played a variety of songs while employees enjoyed food from Suka's under the sun in the backyard. It was a treat!